January/February 2006 ISSUE

Central Alternative

Lesbian Notions by Libby Post

PAGE 14

Will PA Face Anti-Gay Amendment?

At press time, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats co-chair Ben Turner sounded the alarm on a potential new attempt to write anti-gay discrimination into the state constitution.

Whispers inside the Capital dome revealed that State Rep. Scott Boyd, R-Lancaster is drafting a state constitutional amendment denying gay and lesbian families legal recognition. The proposal is thought to have the support of four other representatives, including Rep. Katie True, R-Lancaster.

December 6 the radical Pennsylvania Family Institute (pa4marriage.org) sent its membership an e-mail urging them to contact state legislators in support of the anti-gay amendment.

"We need everyone to contact their state representatives. Ask them to keep their names off this amendment. Ask them to oppose the amendment if it comes up for a vote. Ask them to protect all Pennsylvania families and not harm some of them by writing discrimination into the state constitution," Turner urges. Pennsylvania law already stops gay and lesbian couples from marrying, making the amendment unnecessary to some observers.

CRSD is participating in a statewide, bipartisan coalition opposing the amendment.

"So-called 'marriage protection' amendments affect all families, not just same-sex families. Supporters of anti-gay marriage proposals in other states have said such amendments apply only to gay marriage, this is not true," according to CRSD co-chair Judy Chambers.

Ohio courts have ruled that unmarried straight people may not seek protection from abuse orders in domestic violence cases. Michigan groups are challenging laws that grant domestic partner benefits. Virginia's recently enacted amendment is so broad that it interferes with the rights of all Virginians to

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Loaves of Love, Others Benefit

Lunch Box Art Brings Hunger Home

By Paul Hood

He came here 10 years ago to a place known as Midtown Harrisburg. As Jim Woland says, with a devilish grin, "We were all losers, loners, poor, pathetic souls." It's hard to believe Woland was once one of the so-called "losers" of Midtown upon his arrival a decade ago.

This loser, Program Administrator for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, has run the gamut: directing plays, organizing local art events, and putting together "Gallery Walk," showcasing the region's talented artists.

So what's next for Woland? Lunch boxes. Yes, lunch boxes - 51 of them will soon grace downtown landscapes brandishing fine, innovative art work by local artists.

The reason for the idea is simple. "The show is basically about Midtown," Woland says.

"The Friends of Midtown Organization decided that they wanted to put some art on the street." In recent years,

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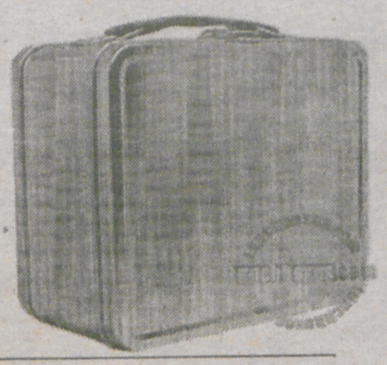
A Midtown LUNCH BOX!



Battlefield Restoration at Gettysburg Planned

Plans to preserve the Daniel Lady Farm, a 145-acre historic Gettysburg battlefield and farm, may be the last large parcel slated for preservation, according to Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.

The group is in its six year of a crusade to save the farm, vir-

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Sharon Johnson Honored

Hershey Theatre Announces Classic Film Series

Hershey Theatre Classic Film Series, called "Critic's Choice," is based on film choices by local film critics or media personalities.

The season started last year with film critic Li Wang's selection of "Annie Hall."

The next selection is by film critic Pat Bannister who picked "West Side Story" for sacreening January 21. This 1961 ten-time Oscar winner (including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, Best Direction, Best Music Scoring and more) stars Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, George Chakiris, Rita Moreno, and Russ Tamblyn in a modern-day Romeo and Juliet epic musical.

Radio personality Don Bowman chose "Casablanca" for screening February 25.

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INSTINCT Magazine Launches "Twist" Radio

Instinct Magazine recently launched Twist, a syndicated gay and lesbian commercial radio show. The show will air in almost a dozen major markets

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Common Roads Benefit

Weekend of Queer Entertainment:

Original Play "Finding Home" & "Brokeback Mountain"

Want complete immersion in a weekend of quality gay entertainment?

Try Winter Arts Weekend, a

continued on page 7

Comcast Channel 163 Aims at Gay Market with LOGO

Finally digital cable is worth the price. Gay-themed LOGO now runs on Comcast Channel 163. The MTV channel targets **the gay market.**

MTV Networks recently launched the new cable channel to 10 million homes. The channel features movies, documen-

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Attorney Brian J. Tyler Helps Community Page 23

Former Neo-Nazi Skinhead Talks PAGE 24

Altruist Marcia Greise Empowers Others PAGE 23

Be a part of it! New '05-'06 season additions

On sale now!

Starring a stellar cast drawn from the ranks of L.A. Theatre Works Radio Theatre, the characters at the center of one of the great debates of American society (including Dover, PA) come to life in this magnificent semi-staged production from America's foremost radio theater company.

Sunday, January 29, 2006, 7:30pm

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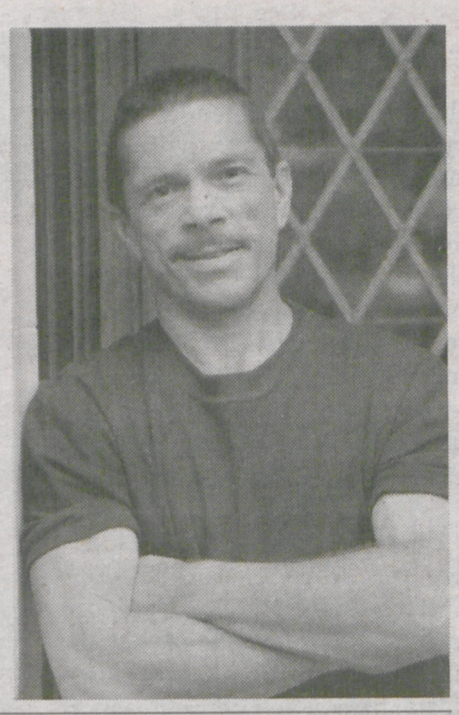
Publisher's Column

Size Matters: We're Smaller & Better



By Frank Pizzoli, Publisher

Yes, that's right. Size matters and we wanted to be smaller. Better.

With this issue, we launch our new format. No more folds. No more sections. Lots of color.

Publishing is a service and we take our duties seriously. Our advertisers have been encouraging. More importantly, they've been satisfied with the results.

We welcome these new advertisers to our pages: AIDS Planning Coalition, C5 Fitness, Cinema Center of Camp Hill, Cioa Bella Salon & Spa, Colucci & Company Goldsmiths & Fine Crafts, Gallery on Pomfret, Neil Choquette Fine Upholstery & Design, Penn State York Campus, and Restaurant Sidney.

Look for more changes as the year progresses. Thank you.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be 300 or fewer words and include email or contact information. Send to SoundOffAC@aol.com.

Like the Humor

Dear Editor,

Thank you to you and all of your staff for their support. You have a great publication that provides a needed forum and voice. I like the humor, the graphics and the sincerity that you convey.

All the best,

Charles W. Andrews
Advertiser

Help You Grow

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on another fine looking issue of the newspaper. I'm proud to be part of your pages and want to add to its growth and continued success.

Barry Hackman
AKA DJ Barry B.
Stallions

Laugh Out Loud

Dear Editor,

I just received the latest issue by mail. Wow! My favorites:

(1) Your Publisher's article. I laughed aloud.

(2) Kristen Richards' column on transgender etiquette. Her writing captivates this 300-pound gorilla.

Thank you for running one of my reviews, too.

Dan Kane

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February
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Friday February 10th Victims Of Desire Male Strip Show 11:30pm
Saturday February 11th Valentines Drag Show 11pm
Thursday February 16th Amateur Strip Night 11pm

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Saturday February 11th Valentines Drag Show 11pm
Thursday February 16th Amateur Strip Night 11pm

Newspage

Gamut Theatre Offers Spring Theatre School

Gamut Theatre, located in Harrisburg's Strawberry Square, offers a spring School Semester. The group is home to Popcorn Hat Players and Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival.

Do you know a child or teenager who would love to be on the stage? Perhaps you'd even like to share the stage with a young actor? Gamut Theatre has classes for all budding thespians in its Spring Theatre School semester.

Classes are organized by content and not by age. This means that no matter how old you are, or how much experience you have in the theatre, attendees can all be accommodated. The group's goal is to enhance communication skills and develop self-confidence, imagination, and creativity, as well as to educate students on a general knowledge of the theatre.

Registration closes January 11. Gamut Theatre, 605 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, PA 17101; (717) 238-4111; Fax: (717) 238-4111.

MCC Worship Times Change for Holidays

Harrisburg's MCC of the Spirit announces that for Christmas and New Year the regular worship time will change. Christmas Eve worship will be at 7 pm and 11 pm. Christmas Day and New Year Day worship will be at 10 am and 7 pm.

California Loan Company Sued for Antigay Harassment

The California-based mortgage lender E-loan faces a lawsuit alleging that the company was slow to respond after employees complained of shocking antigay and ethnic slurs by a company supervisor.

Two employees have reportedly resigned from E-loan as a result of the harassment. Other employees are incredulous that the supervisor has been kept on in her position. The lawsuit targets the behavior of one supervisor, Jonni Guelde, who, according to news reports, seemingly saw fit to say anything that came to her. The suit claims that Guelde openly and actively used harassing slurs in the workplace on a day-to-day basis.

Yavante Thomas-Guess is a plaintiff in the case. "My first experience was when I heard someone being called a fag." Such terms as as "hairy-lipped dyke" and "tar baby" are just a few samples of the vast repertoire of abusive language allegedly used by Guelde to intimidate, harass, and demean subordinates at E-loan.

The suit says Guelde also bragged that her harassment of one transgender employee at a previous position caused the employee to commit suicide.

E-loan is a publicly traded company and is subject to state law and federal regulation.

"Dykes on Bikes" OK'd for Trademark Status

Reversing its previous decision, the US Patent and Trademark Office has agreed to grant trademark status to "Dykes on Bikes" according to the San Francisco-based nonprofit lesbian motorcycle group.

'We've been working on this a couple of years,' said Brooke Oliver, the lead attorney in the case and the founder and managing attorney of the Brooke

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Cinema Center Of Camp Hill Movie Reviews

By Jeremiah Hetes, Assistant Manager

It has been a busy winter at the Box Office. Hollywood has been pumping out some great movies! Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Narnia, Walk the Line, Rent and who could forget King Kong. But that's all old news, here is the skinny on what Hollywood has to dish out on the big screen for January and February.

Glory Road

Rated: PG. Release date: 1/13/06

Glory Road is based on the inspiring true story of the underdog Texas Western basketball team, with history's first all African American starting lineup of players, who took the country by storm., suprisingly winning the 1966 NCAA tournament title. With a star lineup cast of: Josh Lucas, Derek Luke, Austin Nichols, and Jon Voight.

The Last Holiday

Rated: PG13 Release date: 1/13/06

What would you do if you were given but three weeks to live? This Is the story of Georgia Byrd (Queen Latifah) , a quiet, efficient cook, carrying out her uneventful daily routine. Georgia spent all her life dreaming of possibilities. Until, fate changed everything. Then, after accidentally hitting her head, she seeks the consult of a doctor and finds out that she has three weeks left to live. Georgia quits her job, empties her bank account and she goes on a luxurious European vacation with her boyfriend, played by LL Cool J. This remake of the 1950 Alec Guinness film should be a Holiday Fit for a Queen.

Tristan and Isolde

Rated: PG13 Release date: 1/13/06

This romantic story begins with boy Tristan playing with his father. Tristan's family is slaughtered and his uncle, Lord Marke (Rufus Sewell) takes him under his protection and raises young Tristan as his own. Tristan (James Franco) grows up as a strong and noble knight. Long before Romeo and Juliet, there was Tristan and Isolde. Isolde (Sophia Myles) nurses an injured Tristan back to health. In a knight tournament, Tristan wins Isolde's hand for his uncle. This is sure to be a great couple's movie and for all of us romantics who are still in search of our own Tristan or Isolde.

Underworld: Evolution

Rated: Not yet rated

Release date: 1/20/06

The Death Dealers (vampires) and the Lycons (werewolves) are waging battle on one another yet again. The film traces the beginnings of the ancient feud between the two tribes as Selene (Kate Beckinsale) Micheal (Scott Speedman) , the Lycon hybrid, try to discover the secrets of their bloodlines. This all leads up to the battle that ends all wars as the immortals must finally face their retribution. This sequel to the 2003 horror hit suggests an action-packed movie similar to the first film. This January, a New Race, a New Battle and a New Hero.

Big Momma's House 2

Rated: PG13

Release date: 1/27/06

If you didn't get enough of Big Mamma, she is back and bigger than life. Martin Lawrence returns as FBI agent Malcom turner, a master of disguise who again goes deep, undercover as the corpulent septuagenarian "BIG MOMMA." To prevent a national security disaster, Big Momma becomes a nanny housekeeper in the suspects household, only to find him/herself attached to the three children in this dysfunctional clan. If you didn't see the first movie, Big Momma's House then you are in for a real treat! If you did, then you already know what you are getting into. Be prepared for lots of laughs with this sure to be box office hit!

Nanny Mcphee

Rated: PG13 Release date: 1/27/06

For those of us looking for a little magic and for fairy tale fans, Nanny Mcphee is sure to hit the spot. In this dark and witty fable, Emma Thompson portrays a person of unsettling appearance and magical powers who enters the household of the recently widowed Mr. Brown (Colin Firth) and attempts to tame his seven unruly children. The children have managed to drive away 17 other nannies and are sure that they can drive this one away as well. But as Nanny Mcphee takes control, the children notice that their vile behavior, leads swiftly and magically to rather startling consequences. While the children's behavior begins to change, Nanny Mcphee's arresting face and frame appear to change as well, creating more questions about this mysterious stranger who the children and their father have come to love.

Hope you all enjoy the movie news, its time to make more popcorn and to sell more movie tickets, so I must go for now, but I leave you with a complete list of upcoming releases and hope to see you at the movies!

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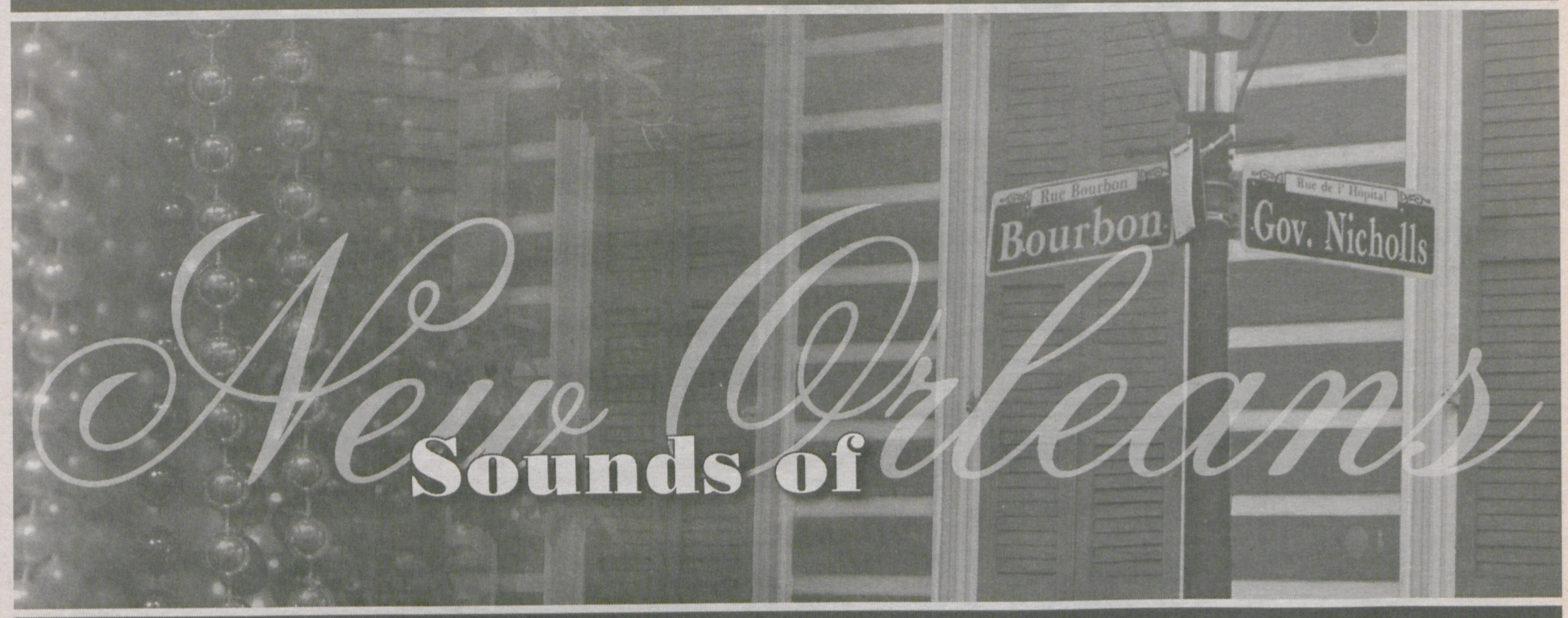

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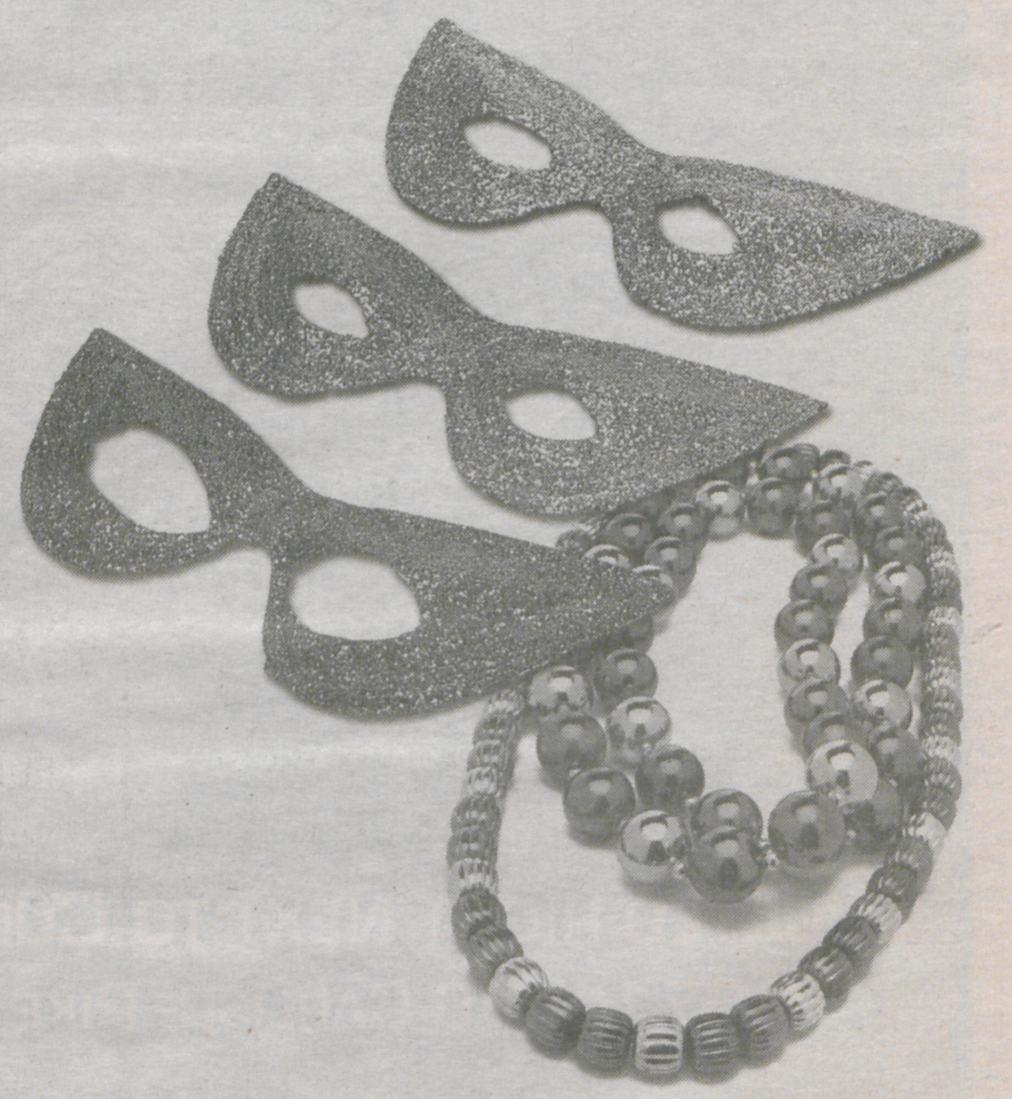

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ALLIED ARTS FUND

In loco what?

New custody law for non-adoptive and non-biological parents

By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire

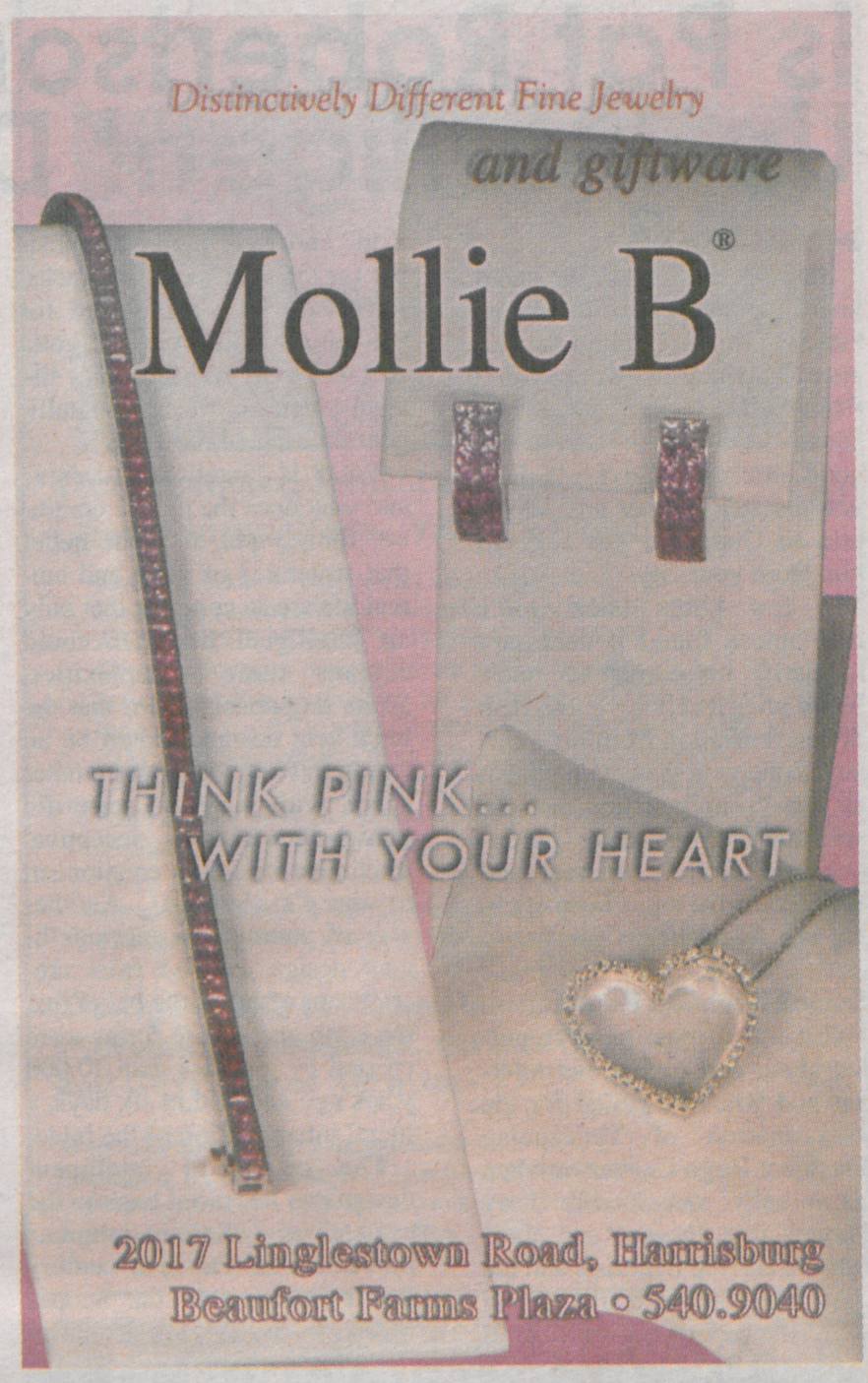
An "in loco parentis" parent is an individual who is not biologically related to their child and has assumed the obligations of a parent-child relationship without the formality of adoption. Unless both parents come to an agreement, a sustained, substantial, and sincere interest in the welfare of the child must be proven in court for an in loco parentis mother or father to receive custody rights.

In a very recent case in Pennsylvania, Jones v. Jones, an in loco parentis mother who was not a biological or adoptive parent of the biological mother's children, was awarded legal custody and primary physical custody of the children based on the best interest of the child standard. In Jones, the biological mother continually interfered with the in loco parentis mother's attempts at court ordered visitation with the child.

In Pennsylvania, custody is always ruled by the "best interest" standard which takes into account the child's physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual well-being. In Jones v. Jones, the biological mother attempted to exclude the in loco parentis mother, and attempted to completely control the child's life. The mother's actions were found to be self-serving rather than a sincere care for the child.

A new law is currently being decided upon that would, by statute, give in loco parentis mothers and fathers the right to sue for legal and physical custody of their children. Senate Bill Number 74, among other things, defines "legal custody" and "physical custody." Legal custody is the right to make day to day decisions for a child, such as medical, religious, and educational decisions. Physical custody is simply who has the child's physical presence. In Pennsylvania, most parents share legal custody rights and one parent has primary physical custody and the other parent has partial physical custody/visitation rights. The new statute would allow an in loco parentis mother or father to sue in court for legal and physical custody. Prior to the new law, only the law found in cases, and not by statute, allowed for an in loco parentis mother or father to request legal custody.

The law in this Commonwealth has changed in recent times to allow for two lesbian's to adopt together. Non-biological non-adoptive lesbian in loco parentis mothers have been required to pay support for their children. A child will not have a right to parental financial support or healthcare insurance without an in loco parentis mother having rights to custody. Clearly, having two loving and capable parents, who are required to share in the parental duties and responsibilities, is in the best interest of children.



Common Roads continued

benefit for regional youth organization Common Roads.

CR offers an original, gay-themed play and a ticket to "Brokeback Mountain." The play, "Finding Home," by local playwright Jane Scott, is premiered at Open Stage of Harrisburg Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14. Doors open 6:30 pm for a reception. Play starts at 8:00 pm followed by Q & A. Seating is limited, so buy tickets early.

Play tickets alone are $25.00. A combined ticket for the play and the movie is $35.00. The movie will screen at popular Midtown Cinema on Sunday, January 15 at 1 pm and 3 pm.

"Brokeback Mountain" is this season's most buzzed about gay-theme movie in which two childhood buddies fall in love after meeting up as adults.

Scott's play is a "chamber theater piece" that takes place in a Harrisburg coffeehouse. The key to the play is in the title. "All of us want to find 'home,' whether it is a place, a person who centers us, or an idea or set of values from which to work," Scott explains.

"It's a play about gay rights and human rights, about the struggles all of us have to live a life of dignity and be respected," Scott says. The script may ask the audience members to examine their tolerance toward each other, especially in a geographical area that seems quite rigid and often intolerant.

The play "nearly wrote itself" Scott says. She estimates that about 40 or 50 people, mostly from South Central Pennsylvania, were interviewed. "About half were men, half were women, one or two admitted to being bisexual, three or four are transgender, more of the older set (over 40) seemed reluctant to tell families, younger people didn't seem to have that problem," Scott explains. "The younger people were either out and proud or experiencing trouble in school and with families who thought they could be 'cured.'"

Drawn from her interviews, the characters reflect composites, some stand-alone characters, and some drawn from CR regulars. "I talked to a number of my acquaintances, my sons' friends, high school students, college students." Fifteen actors will play 38 characters, representing people in a small town who choose to tell us their stories.

Many of the play's stories are monologues; many are revealed in vignettes.

For the most part, the actors are experienced amateur performers who will be recognized by many in the audience for their work at Open Stage of Harrisburg and other regional theatre venues.

The play project is funded by a Jump Street grant.

Is Pat Robertson an Un-Intelligent Design?

By Yvonne Small

Shortly after the Dover school board members who introduced "intelligent design" into the science curriculum were voted from office, Pat Robertson spoke: "I'd like to say to the good citizens of Dover: If there is a disaster in your area, don't turn to God; you just rejected him from your city."

A few hours later, god's mouthpiece found it necessary to clarify his comments, most likely after receiving a less than divine revelation from his attorney. Robertson then claimed that he was "simply stating that our spiritual actions have consequences…God is tolerant and loving, but we can't keep sticking our finger in his eye forever." Whoa…god is a man? Don't tell Whoopi Goldberg.

Robertson must have forgotten about that loving and tolerant god when he called for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez or when he initially agreed with Jerry Falwell that "pagans and abortionists and the feminists and the gays and the lesbians" along with the courts…"make God mad" and were partly responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Robertson later apologized for the remarks. Pat, oh Pat, gotta first vet your remarks with the legal team. So much for intelligently designed remarks.

What is "intelligent design" and why does the debate continue? Simply put, it is the belief that structures of plant and animal life are so complex that only an intelligent designer could explain these complexities. Some proponents claim that the intelligent designer could be an extraterrestrial visitor from outer space with superior scientific knowledge. This is deceptive. Intelligent design is creationism in sheep's clothing. Another way of putting it is that intelligent design evolved from creationism, which is the belief that the earth and all life forms were created by god less than 10,000 years ago and within six days, a literal interpretation of the bible.

The origin of intelligent design can be traced back to the evangelical protestant religious movement of the 19th century that culminated in the Scopes Monkey trial. The Creation Science Research Center and Creation Science Research Society further fueled the debate. These reactionary groups formed to counteract the recommendations from the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study for strengthening the science curriculum in the United States by including evolutionary theory that was absent from science textbooks. The inclusion was a way to better prepare students for the burgeoning field of science and technology jobs. On the other side, creation science groups wanted to maintain a place for god within science education.

The current debate regarding intelligent design is more sinister as evidenced by the current link between intelligent design and the Wedge Strategy proposed by the Center for Renewal of Science and Culture. This linkage is a not-so-subtle attempt by the Christian religious right to move the US closer to a Christian theocracy, more precisely, a fundamentalist Christian state. The agenda is not simply to further the belief in intelligent design as an alternative to the theory of evolution. Intelligent design is part of a much broader political and cultural agenda. According the Wedge Five Year Strategic Plan: "Design theory promises to reverse the stifling dominance of the materialist worldview and to replace it with a science consonant with Christian and theistic convictions." The language used by the Wedge Strategy is disconcertingly similar to conservative Repbulicanese—the need for personal responsibility which acknowledges that human thoughts and behaviors are not dictated solely by our biology and environment (nature and nurture) but should be directed by objective, Christian, moral values.

In the continuing evolution of the Religious Right, it should not be surprising that Pennsylvania

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FUNDAMENTALLY DELUSIONAL?

"I'd like to say to the good citizens of Dover: if there is a disaster in your area, don't turn to God. You just rejected Him from your city."
Pat Robertson, Nov. 2005

"If he thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it. It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war."
On Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Aug. 2005

"I think the gradual erosion of the consensus that's held our country together is probably more serious than a few bearded terrorists who fly into buildings."
On whether "activist judges" are more of a threat than terrorists, May 2005

"Maybe we need a very small nuke thrown off on Foggy Bottom to shake things up"
Referring to the State Department's location while criticizing the agency, Oct. 2003

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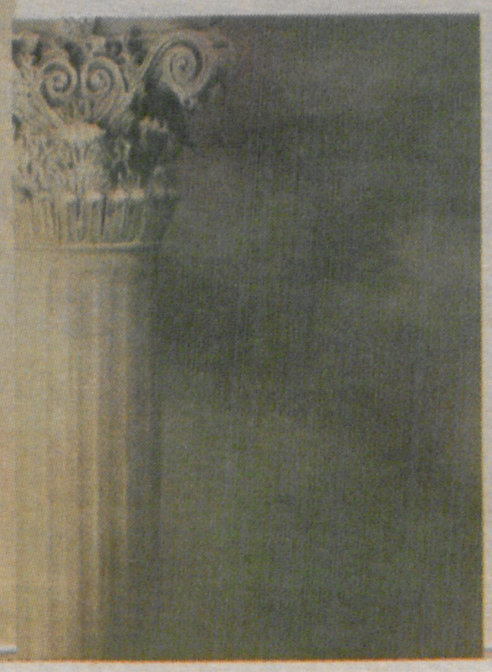

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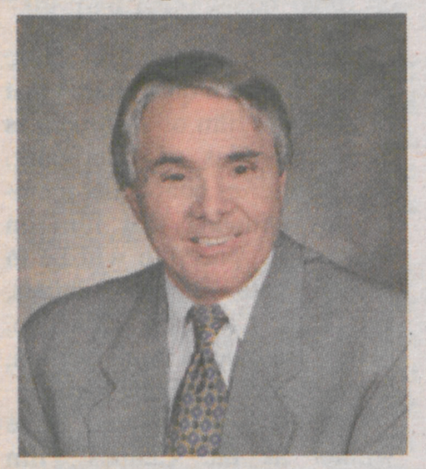

by Peter LaBella

Because U.S. laws currently do not recognize same-sex marriages, gay and lesbian couples are excluded from many of the financial, and other, rights that marriage provides. As you might expect, this fact has serious consequences in terms of their retirement and financial planning. The good news is that there are ways of working within the existing laws to set up financial protections for same-sex partners.

Communication Between Partners

Communication is the cornerstone of all good relationships. So it's no surprise that the planning process should start with detailed, honest discussions between domestic partners. We believe it's critical that both partners explore options and agree on goals, as well as share responsibility for financial decisions. Couples need to decide how much their assets will be commingled or blended together.

Select a Financial Advisor Who Is Right for You

Next, we recommend you set up interviews with several financial professionals to make sure it's a good fit in terms of objectives and comfort level. You should find out how they get paid, verify their educational and business background, confirm their professional credentials, and determine if they have sufficient experience and sensitivity to your needs.

When you meet with them, ask them questions related to the services they offer, their experience and their history:

What types of services do you offer to what types of clients?

Can you only recommend a limited number of products or services to me? If so, why?

How are you paid for your services?

What is your usual hourly

continued on page 20

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Saturday January 28

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Letitia Miele, WHP-TV's 11PM Co-Anchor

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Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Meeting Time: First Saturday each month–8–11p.m.
Location: Metropolitan Community Church–MCC
Address: 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110
Cost: $5 donation requested from non-members
Info: Providing a safe space for gender education and caring support for Cross Dressers, Transgendered Individuals (M2F & F2M) and those close to them. Plentiful parking in secure, low-traffic area, close to building. Light refreshments provided. Smoking and alcohólic beverages are not permitted inside. Changing area provided for those who need to dress.

January 7, 2006 - Meeting, Membership vote on new 2006 bi-laws
February 4, 2006 - Meeting, Skin care consultant & seminar.

Transgendered 101 Educational Panel Offered for Universities, Businesses, various Organizations and Government Agencies

Web Address: www.renaissancelsv.com
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Men's Health

by Brian Wolfe, The Fitness Firm

Train & Maintain New Year's Fitness Resolution

By Brian Wolfe

What is your New Year's Resolution? Most likely you are pledging to start an exercise program. You are not alone. There will be approximately 100 million Americans motivated to get in shape this year. Unfortunately, the vast majority of individuals do not adhere to their resolutions for one reason or another. These same individuals will make the same New Years Resolution year after year. What can you do to stop the cycle?

Have you ever consider working with a personal trainer? About 5 million Americans are hiring trainers to help them improve their physical conditioning and health. The role of a personal trainer is different for everyone. Most people are under the impression that all a personal trainer is good for is to teach you how to properly use exercise equipment. A personal trainer is so much more. A trainer can help you live a longer, healthier life, motivate you, and get results. A few appointments are all it takes for a good trainer to create an individualized exercise program that works for your body.

An exercise program needs to have variety and be fun! It should be modified to the individual; that's where a personal trainer enters the picture. A trainer will assess your current fitness level and your goals to create a customized program. Having one-on-one training sessions makes exercise safe. A trainer will instruct you on proper exercise form and good body mechanics. Trainers know the anatomy of the body and are familiar with the proper body position for the exercise equipment. Even seemingly minor changes in the way one exercises can make a huge difference in the results.

If you can answer "yes" to one of the following questions, you can benefit from hiring a personal trainer.

1. Are you using the "Cookie Cutter" approach? (bold ital) Does your exercise program come from a magazine? Did a friend recommend an exercise program that worked for him or her? Chances are this exercise program will not work for you. There is no such thing as a "COOKIE CUTTER" approach when it comes to exercise. Everyone is different and if you want RESULTS, then you need an exercise program specific to you.

2. Not getting results? (bold ital) Are you frustrated that the amount of effort you're putting forth is not matching the results you expected? A personal trainer will assess your current program and show you how to get results effectively and in less time. Your trainer will provide you with a safe and effective exercise regime that will allow you to achieve the highest level of fitness and health.

3. Having difficulty sticking to your program? (bold ital) Large portions of gym members lose their motivation within six weeks. Your personal trainer will help you adhere to your program consistently and provide you with the supervision and individualized instruction necessary for you to achieve your fitness and health goals.

With the New Year here, why not resolve to make fitness a priority? Hire a personal trainer. You'll be glad you did.

Brian Wolfe, M.S., is Fitness Director at The Fitness Firm. His fitness research has appeared in The American College of Sports Medicine Journal.

Hershey Theatre continued

Michael Curtiz directed this 1942 film, which stars Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Conrad Veidt, Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet, and Dooley Wilson. This may be America's most treasured classic films - requested more than any other, as it tells the story of war-torn Casablanca in World War II.

Finally, longtime film critic Sharon Johnson once shared that her favorite film of all time was The Umbrellas of Cherbourg. The film series honors her memory by showing that film on March 25. The film will be in French, with English subtitles, and stars Catherine Deneuve, Nino Castelnuovo, Anne Vernon, Marc Michel and Ellen Farnen.

Umbrellas was Grand Prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival in 1964. For contemporary audiences who loved Moulin Rouge or Phantom of the Opera, this haunting cinematic romantic drama will capture their hearts.

Classic Films screen Saturdays, 7:30 pm. Tickets are $7 at the Box Office opening at 6:30 pm.

A concert on the theatre's historic four-manual Aeolian-Skinner organ precedes the films at 7 pm. Box Office: (717) 534-3405; www.hersheytheatre.com.

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INSTINCT Radio continued

around the country including Disney/ABC's 95.5 WPLJ (New York), Clear Channel's STAR 98.7 FM (Los Angeles), Infinity's ALICE 97.3 FM (San Francisco), Susquehanna's Q100.5 (Atlanta) and on the internet everywhere at AOL Radio, TWIST is set to become the first commercial radio program of its kind.

TWIST is the brainchild of the LOGO Network and Wilderness Media & Entertainment founder Matt Farber, who officially joined the Instinct team Lst year.

"TWIST will target not only gay and lesbian audiences, but also our 'gay adjacent' friends and family", says Farber. "At launch, TWIST will reach the largest audience of any gay media intiative including the new gay television networks" added Farber, "and we fully expect to grow that reach as more affiliate stations are added."

TWIST will be hosted by three prominent gay voices: Well-established writer , Hollywood insider, and Bravo personality Dennis Hensley; Big Brother alum, LOGO's Round-Trip Ticket host and recent Instinct cover guy Will Wikle; and Melissa Carter, a hysterical and well-loved out radio personality from Atlanta.

"Commercial radio still commands huge audiences throughout the US and Instinct's involvement with TWIST will help take the No. 1 gay men's magazine to the next level. We see a whole new way for the audience to bond with Instinct, which is already well known as the most interactive and 'social' gay publication in the market", said Instinct Publisher JR Pratts. "TWIST's 'morning show' format and conversational tone mirrors Instinct's personality and Instinct editors and personalities will appear regularly on the weekly show", added Pratts.

Instinct Magazine is the No. 1 gay men's national as verified by BPA Worldwide. Instinct is a lifestyle magazine and is available at most major newsstands. Alternative Central publisher Frank Pizzoli writes for Instinct magazine.

Visit www.RadioWithATwist.com.

2006 Pride Parade Volunteers Sought

by Dan Stroup,
Pride Parade Chair

You asked for it. Lace up your walking shoes. It is time to step out.

Many Pride attendees have asked: Why don't we have a Gay Pride Parade in Central Pennsylvania? That's the Million Dollar question.

You would think that since Harrisburg is the state capital, we'd have an annual parade established. There have been arguments about whether or not we would have sufficient participation from the lgbt community. I personally believe that we would have enough participation.

Who would participate?

The region is home to numerous glbt organizations. There are churches out there standing against the mainstream denominations and are fighting for our civil rights. There are local politicians and political groups working in the trenches. There are local gay business owners in the region.

Last, but not least, there are the Fabulous Folks of our community, the many regular people brave enough to be proud in public.

The Pride Festival of Central PA Committee is pleased to announce our 1st Gay Pride Parade for Central PA. The committee is securing a parade route. Interested groups may contact Dan Stroup, P.O. Box 12103, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2103 or email centralpa-gaypridepparade@hotmail.com.

Battlefield Rest. continued

tually surrounded by properties zoned for residential or commercial development.

Project stewards include Sidney Kuhn, Land Conservancy of Adams County, which played a crucial role in lining up expected future funding; Kathi Schue, Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association president; James Lighthizer, Civil War Preservation Trust president; and Barry Frantz, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee met with officers of his army's left flank at the farm on the first night of the battle and the troops that assaulted Union forces on Culp's Hill formed up on the farm just east of the farm house. Until the famed "Pickett's Charge" by Confederates to culminate the battle, Union Gen. George Meade was preparing to attack the Southern flank at the Lady Farm.

A portion of the farm was part of the post-battle Camp Letterman field hospital which treated thousands of Union and Confederate wounded.

All-volunteer GBPA will use a package of grants to pay off the remaining mortgage on the farm.

Comcast LOGO continued

taries and original programming targeting the glbt audiences.

Logo will present original series, documentaries and specials as well as a library of over 200 lesbian and gay films. The cable channel is also teaming up with CBS News to cover lesbian and gay stories and headlines.

While the channel is formally debuted, Viacom, the parent company of Logo, has still not signed licensing agreements with several of the largest cable providers including Comcast and Cox.

DirecTV has already signed a deal, making Logo available to 13 million households, and Time Warner and Atlantic Broadband have committed to carry the network.

Advertisers will include Orbitz, Tylenol, Motorola, Miller Lite, LionsGate Films and Subaru, hoping to market to the coveted 25-to-49 age range.

December
31st – New Year's Eve – Champagne Toast & Party Favors — Midnight

January
1st – New Year's Day – Pork & Sauerkraut – All Day
21st – Amateur Strip Contest – 11PM – Cash Prizes

February
11th – Amateur Strip Contest – 11PM – Cash Prizes
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12th – Valentine's Show – 9PMish
28th – Mardi Gras– Prizes for Best Costumes – 10PM

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Common Roads
working to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth in central Pennsylvania

Winter Arts Weekend
January 13, 14, 15, 2006

finding home
Written and directed by Jane Scott, award winning director from Central Pennsylvania.

"Finding Home"
Friday Jan. 13th 8:00 pm,
Saturday Jan. 14th 8:00 pm
doors open at 6:30 for a reception
Open Stage of Harrisburg
Strawberry Square, 223 Walnut St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

An original play based on interviews and stories from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning men and women and their families who live in Southcentral PA. The play explores the characters' humanity, struggles, and their common need to find a center, a sense of home. Set in a coffee shop in Harrisburg, the play unfolds in one day as we begin to look closer, to know, and to understand each other. $25 per ticket ($35 Play/Movie Combo)

"BrokeBack Mountain" **
Sunday January 15th,1:00 pm and 3:00 pm
Midtown Theater, 250 Reily St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102, **movie seating is limited

From Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ang Lee comes an epic American love story, based on the short story by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx and adapted for the screen by the team of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. Set against the sweeping vistas of Wyoming and Texas, the film tells the story of two young men – a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy – who meet in the summer of 1963, and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love.

$12 per ticket ($35 Play/Movie Combo)

For More Information Call: Common Roads 717.920.9534
or email: curtis.fenstermacher@commercepc.com or visit our website: www.commonroads.org

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MARCH 3, 2006

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Stonewall Democrats Celebrate Victories, Optimistic for '06

Two of the three candidates endorsed by Capital Region Stonewall Democrats (CRSD) won in the November General Election.

Dan Miller made history as the first out gay candidate elected in Harrisburg. "All the better because the new councilman will be a voice for fairness in Pennsylvania's capital city," says CRSD co-chair Ben Turner.

In Carlisle, CRSD-endorsed Council Vice President Tim Scott won re-election as the top vote-getter for city council.

Allied and glbt Democrats faired well in other Pennsylvania races. Philadelphia elected its first out official, a common pleas court judge. The Pittsburgh suburb of Wilkinsburg and the Philadelphia suburb of Abington Township elected an out councilwoman and commissioner, respectively. Voters in Philadelphia suburb Lansdowne gave a full term to a gay Democrat who had been appointed to fill a council vacancy.

These elected candidates join out lesbian and gay elected officials in York, Allentown, New Hope and Lehigh Valley's Pen Argyl, as well as glbt officials appointed by Governor Ed Rendell, including the chairman of the Human Relations Commission.

Five days after the election, 20 people turned out to raise money for Liberty PA/Stop Santorum Now, the glbt Democratic effort to defeat right-wing Sen. Rick Santorum, re-elect pro-glbt Governor Rendell and organize voters in Pennsylvania for the long term. The local party, one of 40 held across the country, raised more than $300. Information about Liberty PA: www.libertypa.org.

Turner says the good news from November could be followed by more victories in 2006.

"As polls and the recent elections show, Bush and his narrow right-wing agenda are a serious drag on Republicans around the country, especially those who

continued on page 27

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Financial Column

6 Ways to Be a Credit Savvy Consumer

By Maryanne Knaub

Being a savvy consumer is not impossible. It just takes some thought. Maryanne Knaub, Senior Loan Consultant at Camp Hill's American Home Mortgage suggests:

1. Write down a realistic budget, set financial goals and chart your progress.
2. Always pay your bills on time, every time.
3. Consolidate your debt on a low interest credit card or a home equity loan.
4. Obtain a tri-bureau (3-in-1) credit report and check it for negative items such as late payments, charge-offs or public records. Review accuracy of personal information (name, address, DOB, etc.). Make sure every account - opened and closed - was initiated by you.
5. Check your credit score through the website of any of the three major credit bureaus. If your score is low, you can view the reasons why.
6. Protect yourself from fraud and identity theft. Check all monthly credit card statements carefully, never keep your Social Security number in your wallet, use a locking mailbox and shred all sensitive documents.

Tri-bureau credit reports can be obtained at Truecredit.com. The three major U.S. credit bureaus: Experian.com, Equifax.com and TransUnion.com

Maryanna Knaub can be reached at 717-612-5211; Cell 717-580-8868; Maryanne.Knaub@americanhm.com

Common Roads Seeks Executive Director

Carol Reisinger, Common Roads' first full time director is retiring at the end of the year. CR serves the region's lgbt youth, age 14-24.

"I love this job. Common Roads has come to mean so much to me personally," Reisinger says. "Over time I have learned what this organization means to the larger community, both lgbt and straight."

Proud of her accomplishments, Reisjnger says "I have been extremely fortunate to have worked with a caring board of directors, bright interns, committed volunteers and tremendous youth. I believe that we have helped to educate a great number of people about the challenging lives of lgbt youth."

Most important to Reisinger is that CR "provided a safe place for them to just be themselves

continued on page 19

ARIZONA REPRESENTATIVE JIM KOLBE, THE ONLY OPENLY GAY REPUBLICAN IN CONGRESS, HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL NOT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN 2006.
POLITICAL OBSERVERS SAY THAT HIS ONCE SOLIDLY REPUBLICAN SEAT IS NOW A SWING DISTRICT THAT COULD GO EITHER WAY.
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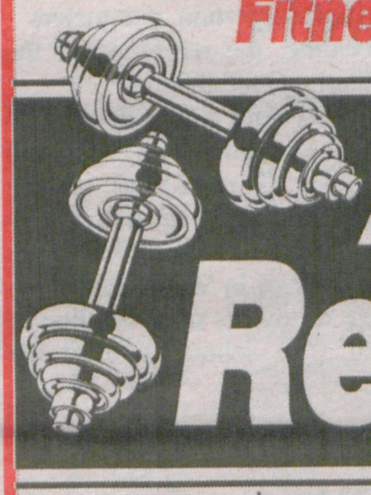

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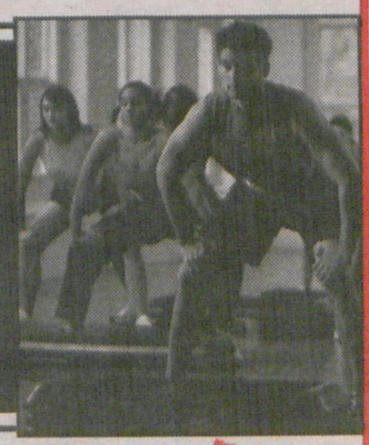

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Lesbian Notions

Freedom to Think

by Libby Post

Getting a good education was always paramount in my house. Neither of my parents went to college, but _The New York Times_ was daily reading, and my brother and I were promised a college education they could afford. That meant going to one of the 64 State University of New York campuses. I eventually got both my degrees from the University at Albany; my brother received his from Stony Brook and Binghamton.

In the post-'60s college environment that both my brother and I enjoyed, there was open debate on myriad issues - debate that was fostered by a commitment to new and different ideas, respect for a broad range of opinions, and recognition that if we didn't learn and grow, we would shrivel and die.

This is the way it was and still is on many campuses, but not so at some schools that have religious affiliations.

Schools affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention have made the news regarding their reluctance to embrace ideas outside their narrow biblical interpretations. At Baylor University in Waco, Texas, 25-year-old Matt Bass had his full scholarship to divinity school revoked after he came out.

When the school's student newspaper endorsed gay marriage, Baylor's president rebuked it. After all, Baylor's school policy states that no student publication's editorial should "attack the basic tenets of Christian theology or of Christian morality" - so much for freedom of the student press.

After learning that 1983 graduate Tim Smith, who is on the university's School of Business advisory panel, was gay, Baylor told Smith that he could no longer serve and was no longer welcome. This was after Smith personally donated over $65,000 to the school and raised an additional $60,000 to establish an academic scholarship. I guess gay money doesn't talk at Baylor.

Nor does a good cup of java. Once Baylor learned that an Armistead Maupin quote was on Starbucks' coffee cups as part of the company's campaign to highlight quotes from famous people, the school ordered the Starbucks on campus to get rid of all its cups.

Even if a Baptist-affiliated school wanted to do the right thing and be welcoming, the various state Baptist Conventions are not above holding the schools they support financially hostage. Recently, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention threatened to pull nearly $1 million in funding to that state's Mars Hill College if it approved Open Doors, a campus LGBT group. Money won out - the group was not recognized.

But the Baptists aren't alone. An associate dean at Catholic Seton Hall University in New Jersey was demoted after he publicly criticized the church's antigay position in his local newspaper. W. King Mott wrote a letter to the _Newark Star-Ledger_ assailing the church for its new policy banning gay men as priests, and for making gay priests scapegoats in the child sex-abuse scandal.

His big mistake, according to the school's dean, was identifying himself as a Seton Hall administrator. After working there for seven years, Mott thought of Seton Hall as an institution of higher learning that valued free expression of ideas. Unfortunately for Mott, that freedom of thought has to be within certain parameters - this time, the teachings of the Catholic Church.

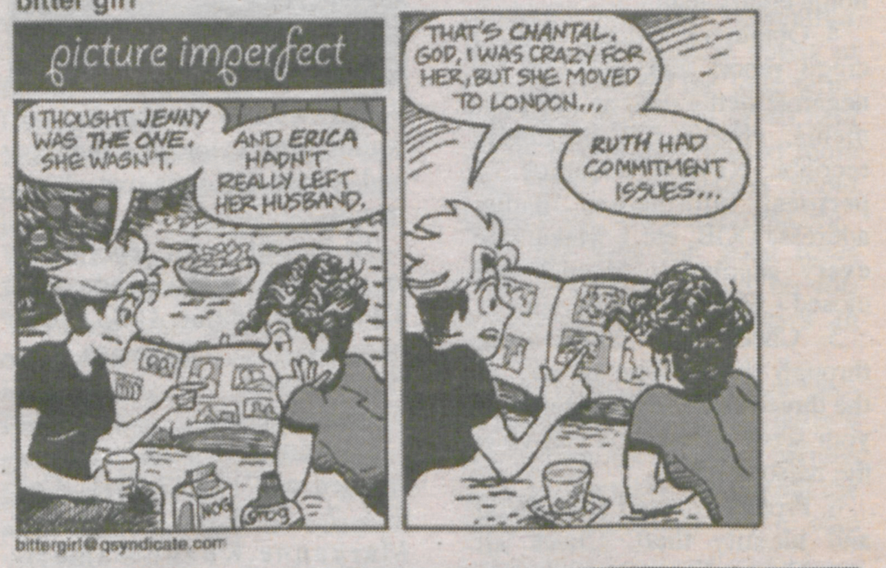
If you want to be a doctor and go the New York Medical College (NYMC), a private Catholic school affiliated with the Archdiocese of New York and located in Westchester, you have to tow its religious line as well. The school revoked the charter of its LGBT student group after it changed its name from Student Help to NYMC Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender People in Medicine - it said that the group wanted to "promote the lifestyle of GLBT people, [which is] in conflict with the standards and values of the College." A statement issued by Dean Dr. Ralph O'Connell said, "It was clear that the organization and its leader would advocate and promote activities inconsistent with the values of NYMC."

Could those activities be teaching safe-sex or promoting free and unfettered access to reproductive health care? Are coffee cups really so subversive that they pose a threat to Christian teachings? Is speaking one's mind about victimizing gays grounds for demotion?

These are all valid questions - but ones that will never be given the full rigor of academic discussion and debate at Baylor, Seton Hall, Mars Hill, or NYMC. At these campuses, the freedom to think has been replaced with the freedom to not think out loud.

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com

bitter girl


picture imperfect
I THOUGHT JENNY WAS THE ONE. SHE WASN'T.
AND ERICA HADN'T REALLY LEFT HER HUSBAND.
THAT'S CHANTAL. GOD, I WAS CRAZY FOR HER, BUT SHE MOVED TO LONDON...
RUTH HAD COMMITMENT ISSUES...
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Pride

2003, 2004 & 2005

Statement of Accountability to the Community

These last few years have seen a complete 180 degree change in the way Pride is being organized, managed, implemented and executed. The Pride Committee has become a cohesive body of individuals dedicated to the success of each Pride; however, none of the recent accomplishments could have been realized without the previous hard work of Charlie Smith, Pride President 2001 and 2002.

We, the Pride Committee of 2005, are pleased to present the following financial information for review and comment.

Pride 2003

Gross Expenses $ 38,987.34
Gross Revenue $ 41,038.76
Net Profit $2,051.42

Net profit distributed in the following manner:

Alternative Central bi-monthly newspaper	$183.00
Common Roads	$724.00
Greater Harrisburg Foundation's Equity for Gays and Lesbians Partnership Fund	$150.00
GLSH's Fall Achievement Benefit Fundraiser	$183.00
Gay and Lesbian Film Festival of Central Pennsylvania	$183.00
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.	$183.00
GLSH's Higher Educational Opportunity Scholarship Fund	$205.00
James A. Hueholt Memorial Fund for Animals Castaway Critters	$183.00
Service Members Defense Network SLDN, Allen Schindler Memorial Fund	$ 57.42

Pride 2004

Gross Expenses $ 35,529.55
Gross Revenue $ 40,826.00
Net Profit $ 5,296.45

Net profit distributed in the following manner:

Aids Community Alliance	$ 189.15
Alternative Central bi-monthly newspaper	$ 189.15
Diabetes Association of Central Pennsylvania	$ 189.15
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank	$ 189.15
Common Roads	$ 189.15
GLSH's Fall Achievement Benefit Fundraiser	$ 189.15
Friday Nite Pre-Pride Event Party	$ 2648.23
Gay and Lesbian Film Festival of Central Pennsylvania	$ 189.15
GLSH's Higher Educational Opportunity Scholarship Fund	$ 189.27
James A. Hueholt Memorial Fund for Animals Castaway Critters	$ 189.15
Human Rights Campaign Fund	$ 189.15
Habitat For Humanity Central Pennsylvania Chapter	$ 189.15
Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit	$ 189.15
Positive Opportunities	$ 189.15
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.	$ 189.15

Alternative Central-bi monthly newspaper; Judy & Carl Bacon (in honor); Viola Bechtel (in memory); Peter D. Bower & Gary Laudenslager; Joseph W. Burns; Ester W. Carter; Brad Cleland-RE/MAX Realty Associates; Mike Davis; Karen Eberle; Yasmin Erne; Randall Gottshall; Harrisburg Men's Chorus-Mr. David Payne; Thomas Herr & Terry Hamilton; Kenneth O. Huling; Jack Gaughen Realtor ERA-Marsha Wood; Michael P. Jewer; Charles D. Kress; Lambda Car Club-Central PA Region; Ralph "Bud" Lower; MET LIFE-Shannon Shupp, LUTCF, CLTC; Midtown Scholar Bookstore; Morgan Plant & Associates, Government Affairs Public Relations; Joe & Frank Pizzoli; Keith Mickley; Sergeant Wayne Pross; Renaissance Education Association, Inc. Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter; Bill Rhoads; Marc-Carroll Rigel; Ann Shaleialohalani-Purrsia Leialoha; Chuck Smith; Lana Stuart; Ken Umbenahuer; Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York-GLBT; David A. Walker; S. R. Weiland; Erika Wollenhaupt & Patricia VanHorn; Bill Wollyung; and Club Z

The Pride Committee of 2006 has begun two major fundraising goals. First, to buy an additional 100 8-colour rainbow flags for the purpose to line the perimeter of the festival grounds, what a statement that would make! Second, to buy a permanent park bench in Riverfront Park dedicated to Pride, negotiations are underway with Harrisburg City on costs and location. Please donate and make payable to either Flag Fund 2006 and/or Park Bench Fund 2006 (separate checks please) and mail to Pride, P.O. Box 12103, Harrisburg, PA 17108

Detailed breakdown of income and expenses for Pride 2005

	income	expenses
Accounting/Legal Expenses		375
Attendance Gate	22961.75	2306.18
Advertising Expenses		5874.71
Bank Charges Expenses		191.86
Bracelets-Pride	1545.52	916.55
Commitment Ceremony	370	608.96
Donations	1098.6	
Fundraising-Buy A Rainbow	618	466.83
Fundraising-Dunk Tank	354	
Fundraising-Cabaret Stage	4334.55	
Fundraising-Information Booth	524	
Fundraising-Replacement Flag Fund	4107.95	4107.95
Fundraising-Saint Pats High Heel Race	2069	
Entertainment Expenses		7460.12
Event Day Expenses		18561.77
Licenses/Permits Expenses		1750
Office Expenses		1099.77
Pride Pageant	948	380.07
Rent		600
Storage		1491.53
Vendor Income	12720	1304.48
Volunteer Day Expenses		1165.95
Water Expenses		47.5
Web Maint/Design		449.75
Totals	**51651.37**	**49158.98**

Pride 2005

Gross Expenses $ 49,158.98
Gross Revenue $ 51,651.37
Net Profit $ 2,492.39

Net profit distributed in the following manner:

Aids Community Alliance	$90.68
Diabetes Association of Central Pennsylvania	$90.68
GLSH's Fall Achievement Benefit Fundraiser	$90.68
Gay and Lesbian Film Festival of Central Pennsylvania	$90.68
Friday Nite Pre-Pride Event Party	$1237.44
GLSH's Higher Educational Opportunity Scholarship Fund	$90.68
James A. Heuholt Memorial Fund for Animals Castaway Critters	$90.69
Human Rights Campaign Fund	$90.68
Habitat For Humanity International	$90.68
Lambda Legal Defense Fund$90.68	
Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit	$90.68
Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania 2006	$76.10
Pride Houston/Katrina Hurricane Relief Fund	$90.68
Pride 2006, Bench in the Park Fund	$90.68
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.	$90.68

One of the major accomplishments of The Pride Committee of 2005 was replacing the 6-colour rainbow flags with 100 of the new 8-colour rainbow flags. Many thanks go out to the following individuals for their generous support in raising $4,107.95

Respectfully Submitted:
Executive Committee for Pride 2005:
Kirk Baney, President and Chairman;
Marc-Carroll Rigel, Treasurer; Miss Biscuit, Entertainment Chairperson;
Justin Bacon, Vendor Chair; Steve Weiland, Recording Secretary, Web Master & Sound Chair
Committee Members for Pride 2005:
Jeff Cheeseman & Bill Hershey, Security Detail; Edward Miller, Volunteer Coordinator;
Michael Tindale, Entertainment & Transportation;
Dave Walker, Pride Information Booth; Roger L. Williams, Jr., Dunk Tank Promotion

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Know What's Inside Your Food

By Christopher Tittel
Key West Correspondent

"They saw clearly by now that unless they could get their Army into the city and take the Trojans by surprise, they would never conquer. The result of this new determination and new vision was the stratagem of the wooden horse."

So writes Edith Hamilton in "Mythology," a wonderfully inspiring book on Greek mythology that I've had since my college days.

The Greeks used the monstrous wooden horse to fool the Trojans in their quest to conquer Troy. Beware potential Trojan horses in the supermarket: Although the cardboard boxes, plastic cartons and cellophane wraps on the products that you're loading into your cart may promise "low-fat," "low-carb," "low-salt" or "low-cholesterol" purchases, that doesn't mean that they don't contain ingredients that could ruin any weight-loss efforts.

An online friend in New York recently drew my attention to the controversy surrounding high-fructose corn syrup, an ingredient that tastes sweeter than refined sugar that some nutritionists might consider an enemy five-star general in the battle to lose weight.

According to an article appearing in The Washington Post in March 2003, high-fructose corn syrup is a thick liquid made from corn starch that contains both glucose and fructose. While the body can digest glucose pretty easily, some scientists believe that it has a harder time digesting fructose. As a result, fructose is more prone to converting to fat in a relatively short period of time.

Some interesting statistics, courtesy of the Post piece:

· Consumption of various sweeteners rose from 113 to 147 pounds per person between 1966 and 2001.

· Sweeteners made from corn constitute 55 percent of the sweetener market.

· Sweeteners made from corn pull $4.5 billion in sales annually.

· Consumption of sweeteners made from corn has jumped from zero to 62.6 pounds per person since the 1960s.

In addition, USA Today reported in March 2004 that the average American's caloric intake through high-fructose corn syrup jumped from 80 to 132 calories per day between 1977 and 2004.

With all this in mind, you might think that the best way to avoid high-fructose corn syrup would be merely to avoid sweets.

Wrong.

Here's a list of some of the products that I identified as containing either high-fructose corn syrup or something called "corn syrup solids" during a recent shopping trip: Miracle Whip Light, Miracle Whip Free, Bull's Eye BBQ sauce (all flavors), Heinz tomato ketchup, Jif reduced-fat peanut butter, Campbell's condensed tomato soup, Hunt's Manwich sloppy joe sauce, Ragu Old World Style pasta sauce (traditional), DelMonte stewed tomatoes (Italian recipe), Sprite, Canada Dry ginger ale, Crystal Light iced tea mix with lemon, Krispy Kreme glazed doughnuts, Kellogg's Special K cereal, Wish-Bone Italian salad dressing, Thomas' English muffins, Nabisco Wheat Thins, Ocean Spray cran-grape juice, Nestle Coffee-mate creamer, Capri Sun Thunder Punch sports drink, Powerade (all flavors), Healthy Choice meatloaf with gravy, Michelina's layered lasagna with meat sauce and Stouffer's chicken a l'orange.

Why so many products with high-fructose corn syrup?

The Corn Refiners Association maintains a Web site dedicated to educating the public on high-fructose corn syrup: www.hfcsfacts.com.

The CRA tells us that "this highly versatile and predominantly American natural nutritive sweetener" not only sweetens foods, but also makes foods brown better when baking, gives soft texture to chewy products

continued on page 19

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Lunch Box Art continued

Midtown Harrisburg has become a popular place to visit, live, work, and play, fueled by a slow renaissance, startling real estate development, joined by independent film at Midtown Cinema, a few eating establishments.

Woland says all of these amenities are available "without the use of a pesky vehicle."

He bikes to work at the Capitol Complex and shops at Broad Street Market. With mentioning food, he says the Lunch Box Project will raise funds for local charitable organizations.

Several institutions that offer aid to those in need became involved with the project, including the Salvation Army Kitchen on Green Street and the Harris Street Church "Loaves of Love," a food bank helping local residents living with HIV and AIDS. "With all of the natural disasters we've had this year," Woland says, "The money has gone to other charities so we wanted to help those in Midtown in need while involving art."

Woland masterminded last summer's "Seven Lively Artists Paint Midtown" exhibit. The group borrowed space on North Third Street where creative sparks flew, spawning yet another successful event for Harrisburg's art community. "That particular aimed to dispel the myth floating on the Susquehanna River eastward from the West Shore is that Harrisburg is unsafe," Woland says. "There are some people who are terrified to come here."

For Woland, the city is anything but trouble, more like "innovation and creation," he says, like painting lunch boxes.

Artist Earl Blust, and many others, will paint lunch boxes for Friends of Midtown "Don't Have a Cow! Let's Do Lunch!" project.

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Music Review

DJ Barry's Dance Music Review

I'm back for the New Year with all the updates and music reviews a person could want.

Madonna

Let's start the New Year with a name everyone every one knows - Madonna. The CD "Confessions On A Dance Floor" was released about a month ago. Can this woman ever rest? Will she ever let her fans down? NO!

This is the best CD Madonna has released in years. If I'm talking about it, you know it has to be good. It's full of dance songs and toe-tapping tunes. Quite simply it is a feast for your ears. The first single released "Hung Up" blazed up the charts. It became an instant hit in dance clubs and is a long overdue upbeat song for radio.

The songs "I Love New York," "Sorry," and "Let It Will Be" are all great tracks. There should be many more hits to come. If you are a Madonna fan or a fan of dance music, this CD is a must buy.

O Zone

"Numa Numa" is a song by the group O Zone. The song itself is actually three years old, but just popped up a few months ago. Each time I play the song I have someone asking me something about it. So I thought I would give you some history on this European dance hit. The group was made up of three guys from Romania. I say "was" because they have since broken up. The members parted ways to explore other types of music. The song was a huge dance hit in many countries. As for the US we are slow at times to accept foreign music. A few dance clubs first picked up the song. Since then it has been featured in a few commercials and also in a few movies.

Deborah Cox

Deborah Cox is back with "House Is Not Home." Even though it is always good to hear from Deborah, this time, I pass. There are different dance mix versions of the song, but none are to my liking. It's a little too much on the funky side for me. Maybe next time Debbie.

Rachel Panay

A new name to the music scene is Rachel Panay. Her most recent offering is "I Still Believe". This song has some decent vocal arrangements filled with her soothing voice. It also has a catchy filtered groove that makes you really want to like it.

Ricky Martin

By now, most of you have heard that Ricky Martin's back. His new song is "I Don't Care". I don't care either. Even with the help of rapper Fat Joe, he needs to disappear again.

Groove Coverage

A really good upbeat song popular in the clubs right now is "Poison" by Groove Coverage. This is a revamped and revitalized version of a classic song originally done by Alice Cooper.

Milky

A new pop tune "Be My World" by the group Milky is a new favorite of mine. The song is upbeat and the female vocal is crisp and clear. This is one of those Euro songs with a catchy sing along line. Even if you don't know the words you will find yourself singing "Na Na Na" every time it comes up in the song.

Mariah Carey

The last song I will cover is a new one from a not so favorite artist of mine. Mariah Carey has been on a string of hit songs lately. Most of the radio hits so far have been remixed for the clubs. For some reason "Shake It Off" has grown on me. The remix I have been playing is the Orange Fuzz remix. This remix is very upbeat and just rolls along. You almost forget it is Mariah Carey.

Stay tuned for another explosion of music information in the next issue of Alternative Central.

Lesbian Physicians Women in Medicine Meet May 2006

Women in Medicine (WIM), a national retreat for lesbian physicians, meets May 14-18 in Sante Fe for its 23rd gathering.

The conference provides cutting-edge CME medical education and a relaxed venue for lesbian physicians and their families to nurture, support, and mentor one another. Children and partners are welcome. Medical students, are especially welcome. Scholarships are available.

This year's plenary topics are "Censorship in Today's World," "Acupuncture for Pain Treatment," and "Disclosure of Medical Errors."

Topics addressed at previous conferences have included ovarian cancer updates, strategies for advancement in academic medicine, bariatric surgery, politics of same sex marriage, financial and legal planning, and adoption options for lesbian families. Lectures are designed not only to meet CME goals of attending physicians, but also to meet the varied interests of significant others.

Each year, the conference provides a Mentoring Program for medical students. Time is allowed for socializing and networking, with both planned and informal events. Activities this year include an afternoon tour of old Santa Fe and a fun-filled evening of Square/Contra Dancing for the entire family.

Early registration begins January 1. Requests for medical student scholarships should be received by February 10. Web site:www.womeninmedicine.org; contact wimretreat@earthlink.net.

Indoor Air Quality Important

By Kristen Richards

Soon, we'll be spending most of our time indoors. As temperatures drop, so do humidity levels and indoor air quality. Classic signs of poor air quality are static in the carpet, dry skin/hands, chapped lips, allergies, breathing conditions, scratchy, dry throats and noses and frequent dusting throughout the house.

With the exception going South for the winter, there are inexpensive ways to combat poor air quality.

Humidity Options

Installing individual room humidifiers in your bedroom or areas where you spend most of your time are extremely helpful. Humidifiers reintroduce moisture into the air. Optimum humidity levels are 35%.

As moisture levels rise, your body feels warmer, resulting in lower thermostat settings and energy savings. Moisture also provides for better breathing during sleep while preventing dry, scratchy throats and noses. The downside to room humidifiers is frequently filling the water reservoirs, cleaning and disassembly. Room humidifiers range from $25 to $75, depending on style or size.

Forced-air heating systems, equipped with optional humidifiers are the best but most costly method of combating dry air, distributing moisture throughout the house, via the furnace's duct work. They are equipped with humidistats that control humidity levels. Self-feeding reservoirs for automatic water refill and flow-thru draining keep moving parts clean. Whole house humidifiers range from $350 to $500 and should be installed by a qualified heating specialist.

Air Filtration

Frequent dusting, allergies and bronchial problems are often the result of dirty duct work and/or air filters. Airborn pollutants like cigarette smoke and tar, pollen, aerosols, dust, pet and human hair and dander permeate air. These substances eventually collect at the furnace's air filter, before passing warm air through supply ducts.

Check or replace your paper filter on a monthly basis. More expensive, permanent, electrostatic air filters cost around $30, filter more pollutants, requiring regular cleaning but eliminate buying cheap disposables. However, even the best filters do not trap 100% of the air-born particles. After years of buildup, it's wise to have the entire duct system checked or cleaned especially if you frequently dust or notice soot at the supply outlets. Whole-house duct cleanings range from $350 to $750, depending on the number of supply ducts.

An investment in home comfort can be achieved with the smallest of budgets and with little maintenance. More importantly, cleaner air extends the quality of life.

Domestic Violence Gay Issue Too

By Ana Paulina Gomez
Safe Home/YWCA of Hanover

Domestic violence has too often been "seen" as a problem solely among heterosexual people, especially among heterosexual women. It is important to leave behind that stereotype and validate that domestic violence affects all people. Domestic violence is a problem that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, sex, social status, economic status, race, religion, or age.

Same-sex domestic violence is a reality. Approximately 30% of gay and lesbian relations are abusive - that same rate applies to heterosexual couples.

Whether lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, or heterosexual, battering in relationships includes abuse to maintain control and power over one's partner. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, or financial, leaving the victim feeling isolated, afraid and usually convinced that they are at fault.

Although similar to heterosexual relationships, domestic violence among lesbians and gays is slightly different. Battering among lesbians and gays is harder to acknowledge – by victims, society, support organizations, and the gay/lesbian community.

Often, many gays and lesbians are afraid to use existing services, such as the legal system or domestic violence agencies, because it might feel as if they are "coming out" and this can be extremely difficult. Another big difference is that the batterer may threaten to make public the victim's sexual orientation. For many victims of domestic violence, being "outed" at work or to family is more threatening than being battered.

Look for some of these signs to find out if you or someone you know may suffer from domestic violence. Your partner:

tracks all of your time

constantly accuses you of being unfaithful

discourages your relationships with family and friends

prevents you from working or attending group meetings or school

criticizes you for little things

continued on page 20

Food Column continued

and promotes freshness.

It also advises that high-fructose corn syrup is not actually "high" in fructose, but bears a chemical composition "nearly identical" to table sugar.

"Media stories that 'link' consumption of HFCS to the rise in obesity are without scientific merit and only serve to trigger alarmist reactions," the CRA further states. "The best way for Americans to combat obesity is to substantially increase physical activity while enjoying balanced diets and moderate consumption of all foods and beverages."

While the jury's still out on any definitive link between consumption of high-fructose corn syrup and weight gain, the issue draws attention to the importance of reading the ingredients on anything that you might buy to determine if it's in your best weight-loss interest to do so.

Of course, one way to help ensure that you dodge as many nutritional Trojan horses as possible is to stay away from the aisles in the grocery store (where most of the prepared and packaged foods are on display) and shop only along the walls of the store (where most of the fruits, vegetables, meats, milk and other fresh products are sold).

Seeks Director. continued

without fear. I absolutely know in my heart that we have made a difference in their lives. What more can anyone ask of a job?"

"But life is full of choices and right now it is time for my husband, Jake, and I to begin a new phase of our lives. He is retiring as well and we want to travel." Reisinger plans to return to CR as volunteer and will continue to do workshops.

CR hopes to find an executive director dedicated to their mission and to young people. "Of course, they will also have to be able to write grants and fund raise, as we are constantly finding ways to keep the doors open," Reisinger explained.

Interested candidates may call 717-920-9534 or send cover letter and resume to 221 North Front St. Harrisburg, Pa 17101.

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"Propellers On The Bridge," photography by Doug & Camille Spurlock. Architectural relief on State Street Bridge.

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Domestic Violence continued

controls all the finances and forces you to account in detail for what you spend

humiliates you in front of others

destroys personal property or sentimental items

hits, punches, slaps, kicks or bites you or your children

uses or threatens to use a weapon against you

threatens to hurt you or your children

forces you to engage in sex against your will

It is important to remember that battering is a crime. Further, domestic violence includes dating violence and familial violence. Silence is not the answer to end domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is being abused, contact National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 to locate your local agency. In the Greater Hanover Area, Safe Home's 24-hour hotline is 717-632-0007.

It's Good for Business

92% of Fortune 500 Companies Have Sexual Orientation Policies

As little as five years ago, only about half of Fortune 500 companies included sexual orientation in their formal corporate non-discrimination policies. Today, a record 92% of them voluntarily include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies; all but one (ExxonMobil) of the Fortune 50 have seen the light.

This embrace of equality is particularly important because it exceeds the demands of federal civil right laws. The US in 2005 is one of the only western democracies that still allows sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace. To date only 16 states have seen fit to ban the practice.

But corporate America by its own deeds has revealed a strong preference for sexual orientation equality. So what caused the vast majority of large companies to cover gay and lesbian workers? The answer is simple: It's good business.

Protecting Yourself continued

rate? Do you charge a flat fee and/or commission?

What experience do you have, especially with people in my circumstance?

Where did you go to school and what training did you receive?

What licenses do you hold?

Are you registered with the SEC, a state or the NASD?

Have you ever been disciplined for unethical or improper conduct?

Have you ever been sued by a client who was dissatisfied with your work?

Will you send me a copy of both parts of your Form ADV? (A Form ADV contains information about an investment adviser and its business operations. Form ADV also contains disclosure about certain disciplinary events involving the adviser and its key personnel.)

You may opt to choose a fee-based investment advisor. Fees are generally based on assets under management, not on the number of trades nor on which financial products are recommended. The primary benefit of a fee-based advisor is that he or she can provide independent and objective advice. Since loyalty is to individual clients, rather than to specific investment products, the risk of conflict of interest is eliminated.

A Two-Step Portfolio Approach

We recommend a two-step portfolio approach to a same-sex couple's financial planning. Step One considers the assets of each partner as a single, separate entity when structuring the individual portfolio. Step Two evaluates the individual portfolios as a whole. After the initial implementation of the portfolio investment plan, a good financial planner continues to work actively in accordance with a client's interests.

Communication Between Financial Advisor and Clients

You may have discussed your options and goals together and come to a mutual decision, but don't let the communication stop there. Unfortunately, less than 50 percent of couples meet with their financial advisors together. However, regular meetings with your financial advisor give you an opportunity to review important issues that impact your portfolio. Clients should feel comfortable to ask questions, express concerns, or share significant financial developments that occur.

Protect Your Assets

Documentation is crucial to protecting assets. Most state laws dictate that when an unmarried person dies, the assets go to the nearest surviving relative, not to his or her significant other. One way around this is to have Transfer on Death (TOD) documents on file with your various financial accounts. The TOD ensures the assets will be passed on to the surviving partner. It is also important to have a will in place to outline these and other details. While this may seem a no-brainer, a surprising number of adults do not have a will prepared.

Most of these legal documents are not suitable for do-it-yourselfers. You need to be very careful that your intentions are clearly defined, and then to sit down with an attorney or adviser who is experienced in dealing with these issues.

Peter LaBella, founding partner of FMA Advisory, is a Certified Financial Planner. His expertise includes business pension planning, estate planning and tax planning. Robert Caplan, a Partner at FMA Advisory, is a Registered Investment Advisor and a Chartered Financial Analyst with expertise in investment strategies for portfolios with highly appreciated securities, security analysis and asset management. Please visit www.fma-advisory.com for more information.

Anti-Gay Admend. continued

create wills, medical directives, powers of attorney, child custody and property arrangements, and even joint bank accounts.

"Supporters of the Pennsylvania amendment are keeping their wording under wraps, but the 'Family Institute' told members the amendment would prevent the possibility of civil unions as well as marriage rights. As other states' experience shows, the amendment may reach even further than that," Turner says.

"This is the most critical battle our community faces in Pennsylvania. This is the one thing your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors should be willing to help with," Chambers says.

Contact information for state representatives is available at www.legis.state.pa.us or in the blue pages of your phone book.

More information: Capital Region Stonewall Democrats; www.capitalstonewall.org; crstonewalldems@yahoo.com; (717) 691-7533.

Lenten Reflections
Harrisburg Choral Society's Second Concert of the Season

Lenten Reflections
Harrisburg Choral Society
Dr. Robert Hart Baker,
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Thompson's *Allelulia*, and other selections

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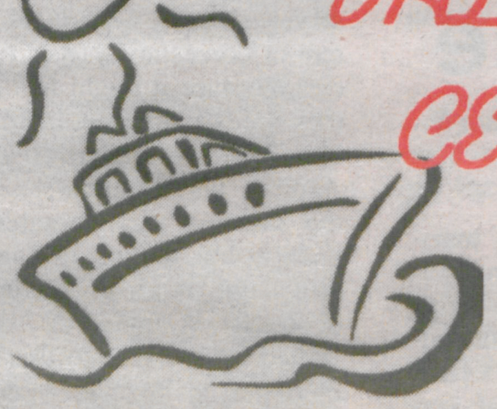

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TransgenderVictimized by Conservative Ideology

By Kristen Richards

In past issues, I've used this column to educate peers and colleagues on gender education. This column focuses on my recent hearing in Dauphin County Court to legally change my name to Kristen Richards.

Based on my attorney's consultation and a 1998 State Supreme Court Ruling based on the matter of Katherine Marie McIntyre (formerly Robert Henry McIntyre), I learned that the hearing judge would likely ask me five basic questions. These questions essentially included the reasons for my name change.

Asking these basic questions historically has been the court's procedure that resulted in hundreds of name changes like mine. Unknown to me, I was at the mercy of a judge with a conservative ideology.

After taking my oath and seat beside the judge, he asked the questions I anticipated, including the reasons for my name change. My request was simple: I sought a name change to accommodate my gender reassignment surgery.

Anyone can legally change their name so long as they do not attempt to avoid financial obligations or commit fraud in the process. Those conditions represent the legal prerequisites for name change. There's historically not much more to the matter. Assure a judge that you're not intending to commit fraud or avoid financial obligations, and you've satisfied the court's requirements.

As I was ready to step down, the judge delved deeper into my reasons for the change. He was extremely curious about my transition as I explained myself for 30 minutes. He complimented me on my wardrobe and presentation.

Confident, I stepped down, eagerly awaiting his ruling. The petition was granted but much to my chagrin the judge attached a "condition." The condition stipulates if surgery is not completed within a certain time frame, my name change would be revoked. Worse yet, he blatantly stated "I'm not sure if I can do this but I'm doing it anyway." In other words, the judge attached a condition that isn't normally required in these name change matters. I sat in disbelief, knowing his ruling was unjust. I was victimized by his conservative ideology. Instead of using precedent as the foundation for his decision, the judge turned back the clock on previously approved petitions, including mine.

Why is the judge's condition important? Many transgender individuals do not elect surgery, remained physically male but live as females in all regards. As long as they've satisfied the two conditions – no fraud and no avoidance of financial obligations – they've met the legal test to change a name. Also, they must be able to maintain proper identification that reflects their true selves. If not, it sends mixed messages, ongoing scrutiny, discrimination and embarrassment. The conservative views of a Dauphin County judge, regardless of precedent, could negatively affect one's life choices.

Judges, when not appointed, are elected officials, same as mayors, city council members, and state senators. Remember to always know the political stance when voting for judges. Don't vote for a judge who doesn't clearly understand you and your life. You may be before him or her someday for the most important decision of your life.

Fashion Facts

Some high-end Euro fashion labels now use overseas factories.

Armani: 18% of the Armani Collezioni made in Eastern Europe

Celine: Macadam line of handbags made in China

Francesco Biasia: 80% of handbags made in China and Eastern Europe

Gucci: Some sneakers sewn in Serbia. The poochies are home grown.

Hugo Boss: $500 suits made in China

Prada: Some shoes stitched in Slovenia. Handbag parts made in Turkey

Valentino: $1,300 white-label suits made in Egypt

Nightingale Health Centers Welcomes Two New Practitioners

Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner Andrew Crimmel, M.S., L.Ac. has joined the staff of Nightingale Health Centers.

TCM is a sophisticated system of health care gaining increased acceptance in modern society. The approach emphasizes treating both the mind and body as well as strengthening the overall health of the patient to prevent illness before it occurs.

TCM uses comprehensive and holistic frameworks to tailor a treatment plan specifically for the individual rather than a generic treatment given to all people with a similar disease.

The first step is an initial consultation which involves a detailed review of your medical history from a holistic perspective. The review also includes diagnostic factors unique to Chinese Medicine. This session concludes with a discussion of particular modalities: acupuncture, acupressure, massage, moxibustion, herbal therapy, exercise, and dietary modification.

Crimmel holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania and spent several years as a research assistant in their Psychology and Psychiatry Department. His Master's of Science Degree in Traditional Oriental Medicine is from the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine and is the highest degree recognized by the US Department of Education in the field. Prior to coming to Nightingale Andrew practiced primarily on the West Shore at the Wharton Wellness Center.

In Pennsylvania, certain treatment modalities require the referral of a licensed physician.

Reiki Master Joshua Ash also has joined the staff. Ash is certified in Reiki I, II, and III. He was originally trained in Florida and has been practicing for more than five years.

Reiki sessions can be helpful for any number of physical and emotional ailments. It seeks to deal with both the problem and the cause of the problem. Suitable for adults and children, a Reiki treatment can be a valuable adjunct to conventional medical treatment and/or to the many other healing modalities available at Nightingale.

Nightingale Health Center is his first Harrisburg area office.

Half of Catholic Doctors Okay with "Lifestyle"

When asked whether homosexuality is morally acceptable, Catholic physicians were the most positive among Christian denominations. Approximately half (49%) of Catholic physicians supported the statement, "Do you feel homosexuality is morally acceptable as a lifestyle choice," 45% of Protestants (non-Baptist) and only 10% of Baptists agreed with the statement. A large majority of Jewish physicians (79%) supported the statement.

(Doctors' overall response total was 55% "morally acceptable," vs. 33% "morally unacceptable" and 12% "don't know.")

Physicians also overwhelmingly support the use of birth control pills among healthy adult women. A large majority of all physicians (93%) and Catholic physicians (87%) indicated that they would "prescribe birth control pills to any adult patients that request them and for whom they are medically appropriate."

Full poll is at http://www.hcd-poll.com/J5765/

MOVIE REVIEW

Lesbian DVDs Hit the Market

Two new lesbian DVDs hit the market for 2006.

The short film collection THE ULTIMATE LESBIAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL includes 10 amazing new shorts by, for, and about lesbians. Release date is January 31.

Then, Ligy Pullappally's moving romantic drama THE JOURNEY, about the forbidden love between two young Indian women, releases February 14.

The shorts collection gathers the best lesbian shorts from the film festival circuit this past year and puts them all on one disc, including hilarious comedies, beautiful romances, and gripping dramas.

The DVD showcases a number of up-and-coming talents, including Chris J. Russo (A WOMAN REPORTED), Roberta Marie Munroe (DANI AND ALICE), Silas Howard (FROZEN SMILE) and Abigail Severance (SAINT HENRY) and features such stars as Guin Turner, Moira Kelly, and Kip Pardue.

Filmed in the Kerala region of India, THE JOURNEY won the Chicago Award for Best Film at the 40th Chicago International Film Festival for its touching portrayal of two young Indian women who grow up together and fall in love, defying family and society. Director Ligy Pullappally based the film on the true events of two young lesbians in India who fled their university after being threatened with expulsion after rumors of their relationship surfaced.

Oliver Law Group. 'It's gone back and forth between us and the trademark office.'

Oliver said the Patent and Trademark Office announced its decision after previously refusing to patent the name because 'dyke' was traditionally considered a disparaging term for lesbians. But Oliver said gay women have reclaimed the word and the connotation has changed. "(The word) is something of pride, not something derogatory," she said.

Americans Want Different Type Prexy Next Time, Poll Says

Three in five Americans want the next US president to be completely different from incumbent George W. Bush, according to a poll by Time magazine.

Bush's policies in Iraq and high gasoline and energy prices had a ``very negative'' effect on his overall job rating for 45 percent of respondents, according to the poll. The results showed 36 percent would like the next president to have policies similar to those of Bush, compared with 60 percent who want a different type of leader.

The findings indicate Bush is failing to reverse flagging approval ratings after laying out his strategy for Iraq in a Nov. 30 speech. The poll showed 41 percent approve of the job Bush is doing while 53 percent disapprove, little changed from results in September after Hurricane Katrina hit the U.S. Gulf Coast. Of those who disapprove, 76 percent said they were unlikely to change their opinion of Bush.

Marriage Ban Against US Constitution, Judge Rules

Another trial court added to the collection of contradictory rulings on the effect of Ohio's anti-marriage constitutional amendment late last year, finding that the measure invalidates domestic violence protections for unmarried couples.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge James P. Celebrezze's decision also found that the second sentence of the amendment violates the Equal Protection clause of the US Constitution.

In the case, Tori D. Phelps asked Celebrezze's domestic relations court for a protection order against her boyfriend, Brian K. Johnson. Ohio's domestic violence law allows unmarried same-sex and opposite-sex couples to obtain protection orders in family court, and requires local police departments to enforce them.

Gay Tory Gets Cameron Cabinet Post

Englishman Alan Duncan, the Conservative Party's only gay frontbencher, will be in David Cameron's shadow cabinet, the newly elected leader has said.

Duncan, the first MP to come out whilst in parliament, will be shifted from his current shadow Transport position to the Secretary for Trade and Industry.

In his role, he will not only be responsible for the party's position on business, but also its stance on minorities, which are handled by the DTI Women and Equality unit.

Additionally, he is likely to be managing the opposition party's response to the Equality Bill and its provisions for protecting lesbian and gay people from discrimination.

Chief Speaks at Gay Conference

Scottish Chief Constable Paddy Tomkins was today set to deliver the opening address at a conference on policing the lesbian and gay community in Scotland.

The head of the Lothian and Borders force was to speak at the first-ever police conference on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (KGBT) community.

Mr. Tomkins said: "Crime against any member of society is unacceptable but to focus on a group of people because of their sexual orientation makes it even more so."

has become a battleground for the current cultural war. Senator Rick Santorum is a darling of the religious right and outspoken supporter of all things conservative. He earned a 100% rating by Christian Coalition. Specifically, he supports giving federal aid only to schools allowing voluntary prayer and supports school vouchers. He opposes expanding hate crimes to include sexual orientation and does not oppose job discrimination based on sexual orientation. He opposes same sex marriage and a woman's right to choose. In the past, he compared consensual gay sex to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery. This does not look like believe in a tolerant and loving god.

The debate about intelligent design is more than a debate about faith and science. It is a struggle for the soul of this county; it is a struggle to uphold the intelligent design of the Constitution and Bill of Rights; it is a struggle to continue the guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all people regardless of their faith, race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. It is our time. It is our struggle.

Harrisburg Choral Society Mounts Spring Concerts

The Harrisburg Choral Society will perform two concerts this spring.

Lenten Reflections will be performed March 5 pm and Uncommonly Mozart May 3. Details below.

The Harrisburg Choral Society, now in its 110th season, is the oldest chorus in south-central Pennsylvania. Founded in 1895, its first Music Director was William Wallace Gilchrist, one of the founders of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Other founding members include some of Harrisburg's most famous and influential residents like Calder, Boas, Kelker, Reily, and Rutherford.

The 60-voice, fully auditioned Choral Society performs oratorios, requiems, masses, opera choruses, cantatas, and other choral works that require a large chorus. Usually, the Choral Society performs with orchestra. Recently, the Choral Society presented Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado and Pirates of Penzance with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. The singers regularly perform works not only in English, but in Hebrew, Latin, French, German, and other languages as well. Brahms' Ein Deutches Requiem was sung in German by the Choral Society in May 2005.

The current Choral Society Music Director is Dr. Robert Hart Baker, conductor of the York Symphony Orchestra since 1983. Now in his second season with the Choral Society, Dr. Baker brings a wealth of choral and orchestral experience and contacts with other music professionals to the group. Former Music Director of North Carolina's Asheville Symphony, Dr. Baker also conducts the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra.

HCS will perform two concerts this spring:

Lenten Reflections

March 5, 3 pm, Market Square Presbyterian Church

Vivaldi's Gloria, Thompson's Allelulia, and other selections

Uncommonly Mozart

May 3, 7:30 pm, Whitaker Center

Solemn Vespers, Ave Verum, Regina Coeli, and other selections

The Choral Society is an Allied Arts-affiliated organization and a resident company of the Whitaker Center in downtown Harrisburg.

Auditions to join the Choral Society take place in September and January. More information about the Harrisburg Choral Society can be found at the group's website, www.hbg-choral-society.com.

Study: Gay Tolerance Grows at Work

More large US companies have fair-minded policies toward gays than ever before, continuing a trend that began in the 1990s, according to a study by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

The organization's review of 402 large US companies finds that more have tolerant policies than in past.

Gay-inclusive policies, once concentrated in financial and high-tech firms on the east and west coasts, are permeating other industries including defense, chemicals, and oil and gas, HRC says.

The foundation released its fourth annual Corporate Equality Index, grading 402 US companies with at least 500 employees on their treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender workers.

This year 101 companies got a perfect score, close to doubling last year's group of 56 companies that received 100 percent. The top-ranked companies ranged from Dow Chemical Co. and Chevron Corp. to bankrupt building materials company Owens Corning and Walgreen Co., the nation's largest drugstore chain.

Raytheon Co. became the first defense contractor to achieve a perfect score. This summer the Waltham, Mass.-based company became the first big military supplier to expand its equal opportunity employment policy to include transgender workers. Transgender is a broad term that applies to people who express an innate sense of gender other than their birth sex; this includes transsexuals and cross-dressers.

Raytheon's chief diversity officer, Hayward Bell, said that while the defense industry as a whole was considered more conservative and less tolerant than other industries, Raytheon sought to be progressive.

"We have some excellent performers who happen to be transgender," he told Reuters. "Maybe without this policy, we wouldn't have them."

"Who knows who creates the next technology, or the next innovation, that's going to create a new market, solve a customer's problem or save a life," Bell said. The company's message to its employees was, "We don't care who you are, we care what you can do," he said.

Companies are ranked according to seven criteria for the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index.

These include whether they have the words "sexual orientation" in their primary written nondiscrimination policy; have the words "gender identity" or "gender expression" in that policy; offer benefits to employees' same-sex partners; have gay employee support groups; offer diversity training that includes sexual orientation; market to the gay community; and have no anti-gay activities such as rescinding benefits or policies.

The campaign says that there are still some companies that actively resist equal treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees.

"ExxonMobil has the dubious distinction of being the only U.S. company to roll back both benefits eligibility for its employees' domestic partners and a sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy," the Human Rights Campaign Foundation said in its report.

Mobil had offered benefits to domestic partners and included sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policy, but Exxon did neither, the report said — and when Exxon purchased Mobil in 1999, Mobil employees were brought under Exxon's policies.

An ExxonMobil spokesman said the company did not discriminate. "We continue to believe that we have a policy in place that prohibits discrimination," Russ Roberts said.

Attorney Brian J. Tyler Offers Helping Hands for Chapter 13

By Paul Hood

Talking with general practice Attorney Brian J. Tyler, of Purcell, Krug, and Haller, he makes it clear his main goal is helping those in need of legal help - no matter their gender, race, or the dynamics of a relationship between partners.

Tyler's focus is bankruptcy, and as of late it is slowly becoming a challenge for struggling debtors to file.

Purcell, Krug, and Haller, 1718 North Second Street, began offering legal help to local residents in the early 1950's. The firm is well known and respected that specializes in real estate, estate planning, bankruptcy, foreclosure, and REO (real estate owned) services. REO services involve handling properties foreclosed upon by lenders which then become their real estate assets. The firm helps them resell in the market.

The practice consists of eight attorneys, each with specialized expertise. Adept at handling Chapter 13 bankruptcies, Tyler has many years of litigation under his belt. Since joining the firm in 1996, after working as a Program Administrator for Charles Dehart while finishing law school at Gettysburg College, he's handled numerous cases. Tyler excels at guiding individuals through the dark, overbearing world of financial debt.

"When I came to Purcell, Krug, and Haller I was exclusively bankruptcy," he says, adding that he eventually added business reorganization work to his practice.

"Over the last 10 years my main niche has been small business and family practice," he says.

Tyler doesn't focus solely on debt problems. "I try to look at the entire picture. Sometimes we're dealing with a personal issue, a tax problem, or it could be something more personal." A personal approach to dealing with debtor issues allows Tyler to better handle situations that can change lives financially.

How will new bankruptcy laws will affect same sex couples?

Tyler calmly states that when dealing with the often-controversial subject of same-sex couples, he must treat his clients as if they're single. Pennsylvania does not recognize same-sex marriage as a legal union. But with his law firm, same-sex relationships – and any form of diversity are treated equally and with respect. Tyler states that firm is proud and has been one of the major sponsors of the African American Chamber of Commerce for 10 years. "We've always been involved," Tyler says. "It's important to promote diversity."

Tyler feels that no matter your background, religion, or social status, everyone deserves the best legal help available. Although he doesn't disagree that gay and lesbian couples face hurdles, Tyler approaches each case with open eyes handling it appropriately.

As for the new bankruptcy laws and how business owners and married couples choose to file, he simply says, "The jury's out on it." Tyler adds that most professionals dealing with bankruptcy believe the new laws will not have major affects, as some had previously believed.

"The threshold to get in is not as severe as we thought it was going to be," Tyler says.

The new law has created more notices and increased the amount of paperwork for filing which may force those considering Chapter 13 to seek counseling before undergoing the process.

"I feel this brings more complications to our debtors," Tyler says. "They're bogged down already by their debts, they're overwhelmed by the notices coming in and overwhelmed by everything already.

Unfortunately, the new law adds to this stress." The new law, intended to provide more information for struggling debtors, may cause confusion and more red tape.

What's the bottom line?

"The credit card industry is benefiting by the new bill," Tyler says. Whatever the case, Tyler stands tall in his belief that his firm's main focus is simply to help those in need - no matter their background.

Altruist Marcia Greise Empowers Others

By Sharon Muzio
Owner, Alta View
Wellness Center

Marcia Greise is owner of Pink Lizard Bar and Night Club. She is known as deeply caring person who uses her role as club owner to mentor and support people she meets. Greise says smiling, "I have never met a stranger." Regulars refer to her as "Mother".

She is an altruist who has given much of herself to an annual Golf Tournament to raise money and awareness for Breast Cancer. Over the past five years, her golf tournament has raised over $20,000 for the Susan B. Koman cancer research fund.

What prompted you to start hosting the golf tournament?

I love people and I love golf. I decided to do the Golf Tournament because women's issues matter to me, and I'm concerned about raising awareness in our community. I do it all myself: from the location, to the advertising, to the door prizes. As is often the case when people offer to volunteer, many good intentioned people don't follow up, so I do it myself. It is a rewarding and fun day for all. It matters that we make people aware of how pervasive breast cancer is, and that we do so through a social venue.

In the US, breast cancer will take the life of one woman every 13 minutes. Were you personally affected by the disease?

No. Fortunately, I have not lost anyone close to me to the illness, however, I'm very aware that many gay women do not see themselves as being at risk, due to many misconceptions and misinformation. The golf tournament is also a way to bring awareness to our community. I hope that women, who would otherwise not think of the illness as something that can affect them, will become more aware of its presence in the lesbian community. Melissa Etheridge is doing a great job at presenting a reality check to gay women though her openness about her illness, and is offering hope through her very public recovery.

Are you planning to have another tournament this year?

Yes I am. This summer I did not host a golf tournament

because I was very involved with the illness and ultimate passing of my maternal grandmother. She was a deeply influential person in my life and her illness and death this past July really affected my life. My siblings and I not only had to deal with our Grandmothers illness, but all of the legal aspects: from living wills, to power of attorney. This experience opened my eyes to the fact that we, as gay people, really need to cross our T's and dot our I's when it comes to legal matters. Further, I am now the caregiver for my mother, who as a result of grandmother's passing, has come to Harrisburg to live with me. This entire experience has made me realize that if I was not savvy to legal maters, the average gay person is probably equally as uninformed.

Effects of Bullying Go Far Beyond School Years

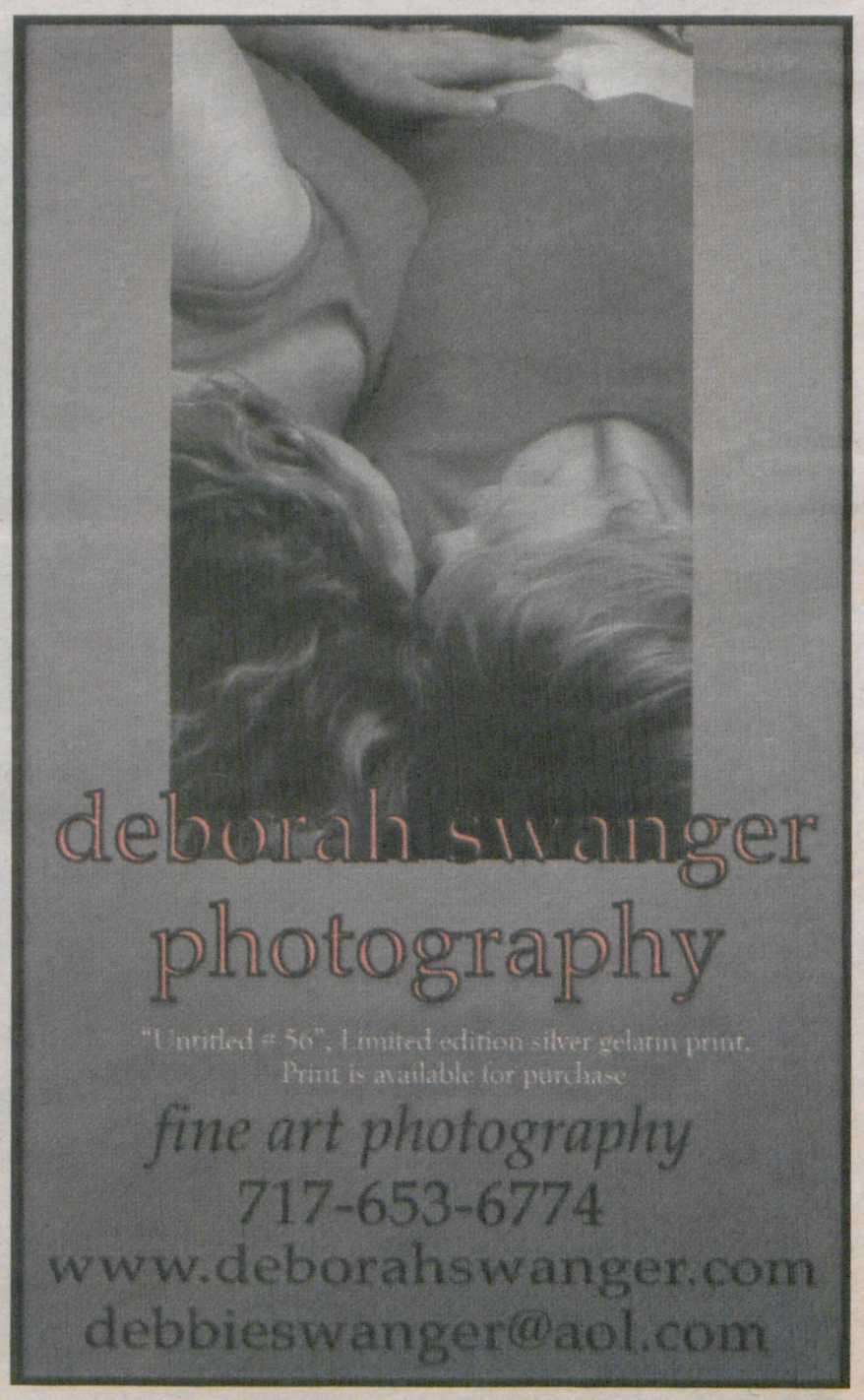
Recent statistics from the American Justice Department show that one out of four kids is bullied.

While bullying has existed in hallways for as long school doors have been open, new research is finding that getting picked on is more damaging than anyone thought.

Middle school student Sarah Crawford recalled her experience with bullies a couple years ago.

She said, "It was so hard. I would come home from school and I would be relieved that I was home and safe!"

Crawford had a hard time concentrating on her studies and was in constant fear of being pushed or shoved in the hallway. The 8th grader doesn't deal with bullies much anymore. Now she's a leader in her school's anti-violence program called Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). She warns incoming middle school students that bullying isn't just physical.



Former Neo-Nazi Skinhead Talks

Editors Note: Four years after emerging from a Florida prison, former neo-Nazi Skinhead Angela King describes the odyssey of her life. As she recently told Intelligence Report, she's now 30-years-old and determined to make up for the years she spent as a violent, neo-Nazi Skinhead.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT: Angie, was there something about your childhood that you feel influenced some of your early decisions? What was your early family life like?

ANGELA KING: When I was younger, pre-school and elementary school age, my parents were very strict while they were still married. My father was Baptist and my mother was Catholic, so I was forced into both religions — I went to Baptist school as well as Catholic school. I have a younger sister and a younger brother. My younger brother wasn't born until I was about 11, but once he was my parents started having problems. Around that time, I started feeling really lost.

IR: What do you think was going on?

KING: Now that I'm older, I think I was trying to get the attention of my parents. It started out with smoking, then alcohol, and experimenting with drugs and sex.

IR: What was that?

KING: I felt like I was gay.

IR: Did you feel like you could talk to your parents about that kind of thing?

KING: My parents were both very prejudiced. My mom had bad experiences when she was younger, and it just carried over into her interpretations of things once she was an adult. My father was prejudiced, too. Growing up, I was always told that I could do anything I wanted and they would support me — except bring home someone black or a woman.

IR: When do you feel like things really started to go wrong for you?

KING: I was 14 the first time I got into trouble. I had gone to a movie with a friend and we tried to sneak in and got kicked out instead. So we went to a little corner store and bought wine coolers. A policeman driving by caught us drinking those, so they sent us to counseling.

IR: Is this about when you ran into your first Skinheads?

KING: I was in 9th or 10th grade when I met some Skinheads. They were so willing to take me in, telling me, "We care about you." They started pounding stuff into me, giving me pamphlets and books to read. They were younger than me, but through them I met the older ones, the adults, who lived by themselves and were in organized groups.

IR: What organized groups are you talking about?

KING: The first one I got involved in was Strike Force. We would drink beer, hang out and get into fights. There was lots of literature, from Aryan Nations to the Church of the Creator. By the time I was 17. I had dropped out of school and

continued on page 30

Red Party
with
Rachel Panay

SMACK DOWN
The Ultimate Drag-Off
Saturday, Jan 21 - 10 pm
First-time tryers - Call to enter.

Mardi Gras
Feb. 23, 24, 25

Live on Stage
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Travel Column

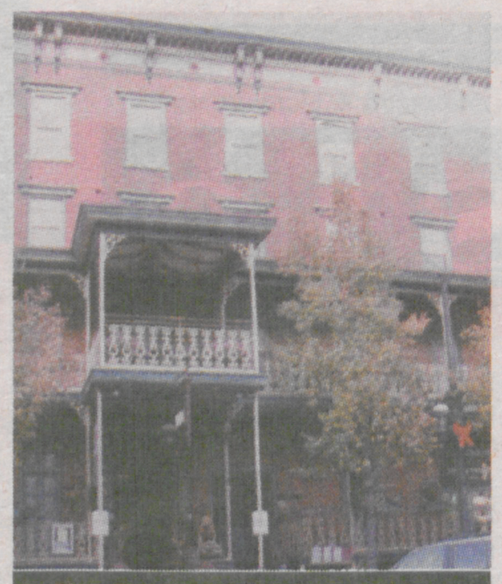
Jim Thorpe

by Shannn Zimmerman

Named to honor the legacy of sport's hero Jim Thorpe, this southern Pocono town is a story built on Carbon County's peculiar revitalization efforts. Thorpe, born in the Oklahoma territory in 1888, never actually lived in the town of his namesake. He was, however, a well-known sport's athlete who won two gold medals in the 1912 Olympics. After Thorpe's death in 1953, his home state refused to erect a monument bearing his accomplishments, so his wife looked elsewhere for burial grounds.

Patricia Thorpe soon discovered the hill towns of Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. Both towns were experiencing economic decline and possible financial ruin. Patricia suggested that she bring her husband's body to the area, unite the two towns, and call them Jim Thorpe. The suggestion was accepted wholeheartedly by the townspeople and, in 1957, the remains of Jim Thorpe were laid to rest there.

The blend of the town's renowned Pocono locale and the draw of Jim Thorpe were a win-win. Tourists now flock to old Mauch Chunk (pronounced "Mock Chunk") for its history, natural attractions, shopping, dining, and lodging. Located just two hours from Elizabethtown, Jim Thorpe is well worth a drive in spring, summer, fall, or winter. Natural activities, from hiking, biking, and kayaking to skiing and snowshoeing, abound in each season.

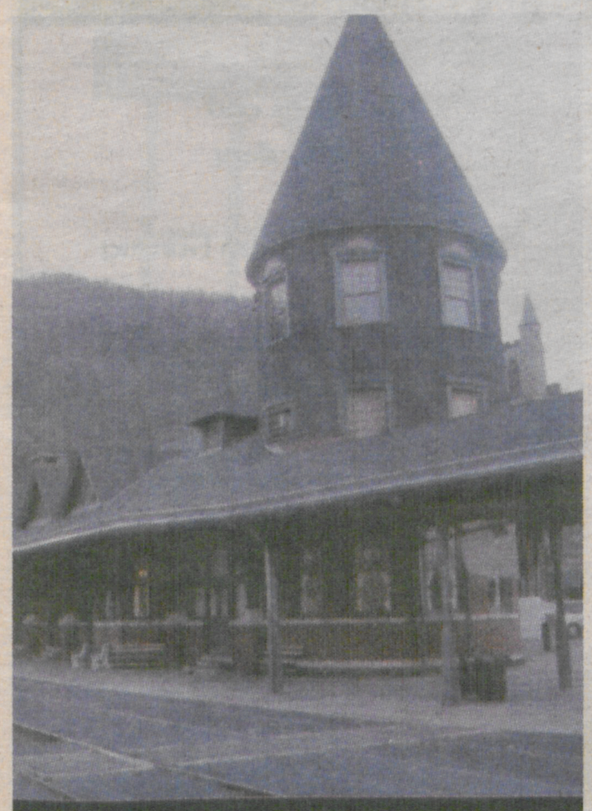


The Emerald Restaurant

Inside of "Natural Impressions"

The Asa Packer Mansion

Gay-friendly store in the town



The train station/visitor's center

Jim Thorpe history is built on the coal mining and transportation industries of the early and mid 1800s. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company ran coal boats on the Mauch Chunk Creek and Lehigh Canal. The company soon sold lots in and around the creek to allow housing for their employees. A shopping district followed and the Lehigh Valley Railroad later helped the town thrive. Historic sites now open to the public include:

The Old Jail Museum, an original 1871 jail containing 28 cells, the warden's living quarters, and 16 dungeon cells.

Asa Packer Mansion, home of the same-named entrepreneur who fueled Jim Thorpe's coal and railroad industries. A fine example of Victorian Italianate Architecture, the mansion's interior is historically intact.

Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, brought to the town in 1851 with money by Asa Packer. The Railway now offers charming tours of the countryside, and the railroad station operates as the Visitor's Center.

St. Mark's Church, one of the most notable of the later Gothic Revival churches of the Commonwealth. Asa Packer donated significant memorial gifts to the church that are proudly displayed here today.

Broadway Street and Race Street are historic stretches in Jim Thorpe where 21st century shoppers can delight in hidden treasures such as:

The Dreisbach House, an antique store with vintage jewelry and clothing

Old Mauch Chunk Model Train Display Hobby and Gift Shop

The Gem Shop, vintage inspired and contemporary jewelry

Marianne Monteleone Design, one-of-a-kind clothing and accessories

Homespun, handcrafted gifts, candles, and soaps

Nature's Trail, featuring exclusive Jim Thorpe collectible ornaments

Natural Impressions, specializing in unique dried flower creations

Shopping Jim Thorpe's thoroughfares can be quite a challenge, as the terrain is steep; however, there are plenty of dining options along the route to sit, refresh and prepare for more walking. Of special note is The Emerald Restaurant, where Dublin hosts serve, "Irish hospitality in an authentic Victorian village." In addition, Café Origins offers healthful vegetarian cuisine and attracts an array of Jim Thorpe visitors.

If breakfast is more your taste, enjoy the individual hospitality of a Jim Thorpe Bed & Breakfast. There are more than ten varied inns with distinctive flair and décor. National chain hotels are also an option and are located just a short distance from the town center. A camping resort is also available.

For more information and a schedule of events for Jim Thorpe, visit www.jimthorpe.org or call 1-888-JIMTHORPE.

PSECU, PHEAA, Clear Channel, Lamar Advertising Sponor

Heroes & Villains Mix It Up at Bal Masque

An incongruous assortment of Heroes & Villains will encounter each other at the Hilton Harrisburg on Saturday, January 28, when the Art Association of Harrisburg Bal Masque arrives on the scene. From 7 pm to midnight, heroes like Superman, The Lone Ranger, George Washington, and Pocohontas will be dancing with Villains Darth Vader, The Wicked Witch of the West, Medea and Genghis Khan, all whipped into a frenzy by the music of Impact Band! Letitia Miele,

WHP's 11 pm Co-Anchor is emcee.??To join this ill-assorted band of costumed revelers, call the Association at 717-236-1432 or visit www.artassocofhbg.com.

The base ticket price is only $50 per person, but there are a variety of great bargain deals available. For those who recruit 7 attendees to fill a table, the 8th person receives a free ticket. For the couple who recruits 8 friends, both receive free tickets.

Proceeds benefit the Association's education and exhibition programs.

Besides the attraction of Impact Band, other draws for the evening are an innovative Silent Auction with baskets filled with "Good and Evil/Black and White" treasures, a raffle, food stations throughout the ballroom, cash bars, and costume judging. The exciting raffle prizes consist of: a weekend at a beautiful Rehoboth Beach condo, a mini-Chopper, and a full-day spa package at Sculptured Images of Wormleysburg. Raffle tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20.

PSECU is the Bal's Signature Sponsor, while other top sponsors are PHEAA, Clear Channel, and Lamar Advertising.

Brokeback Mountain

by Kevyn Knox
Film Reviewer

The sky is deep and daring. Pale blues turn stormy. White clouds swirl with anticipation of disaster. The frontier is lain out in front of us, like the ghost of western filmmaker John Ford haunting us. These are the same images that now grace the camera of Taiwanese-turned-Hollywood filmmaker Ang Lee in Brokeback Mountain, starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Ford's images were mighty and manly. Lee's are too, but unless you've been living without TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, the Internet or your Blackberry, you'd know these mighty, manly images differ vastly from Ford's – or do they?

Brokeback Mountain is a story based on Annie Proulx's 1997 New Yorker-published short story and screened up by western icon, Larry McMurtry and his writing partner Diana Ossana. The story begins in the bitter lonely wastes of Wyoming dirt roads (where Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered) and moves to cold, lonely mountaintops in the Rockies.

In these crags, two cowboys, Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, find more than just a trail and a song in the winter peaks of Brokeback Mountain..

The time is 1963. During these days and nights of sheep-herding and coyote watching, Jack and Ennis find a closeness that surprises them even more than it will surprise Middle America (the heartland movie-going demographic that Focus Features is inexplicably selling this film to). I am sure Nebraska soccer moms will be surprised and, given the country's conservative climate, pissed off.

America's newfound über-conservatism takes this beautifully wrought love story and morphs the tale into something important, even historic. The film could easily serve as a litmus test for tolerance. As our Bush-wacked nation takes 10 steps backward in tolerance, freedom and open-mindedness, Ang Lee and pair of daring actors, Ledger and Gyllenhaal, bring us one of the most intense love stories ever put on film. The film also risks broadening the new right-leaning American mentality.

Rusty pick-up trucks stand in for the horses of Ford's legends until Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal hit the mountain tops. With taciturn, half-mumbled cowboy cadence still intact, Lee's doomed lovers lead their lives with a mislead sense that this is how things are and this is how things must always be.

Their anger is a tension that fluctuates between the forlorn yearning and false machismo. They are both bewildered by the lust (and eventual love) that has overtaken them upon Brokeback Mountain. There is no seduction. There are no words spoken. There is just an embrace in the cold night. Then passion takes over. A rough, wild, angry passion. "I ain't queer," Ennis exclaims the morning after their first mountaintop tumble. "Neither am I." Jack responds.

What follows are decades of loveless marriages and children for both men, interrupted only for the occasional "fishing trip" back to Brokeback Mountain. This was a time and these were places where to be queer was to be less than a man. This was a time and these were places where to be queer could mean certain death. This was a time and these were places where to be queer was never an option.

At its core, Brokeback Mountain is a film about contradictions between the constricting closet of internal, self-imposed shame and wide open spaces of an America supposedly built upon God, compassion and equality. The tensions between these two ideals keeps these men apart for life, when they could have spent their lives together.

Even Jack, slightly more comfortable with himself than Ennis, puts forth the idea of getting a ranch together and spending their lives with each other. Preprogrammed Ennis shoots down the idea. As Oscar Wilde put it: Love that dare not speak its name keeps these men from sharing a life together.

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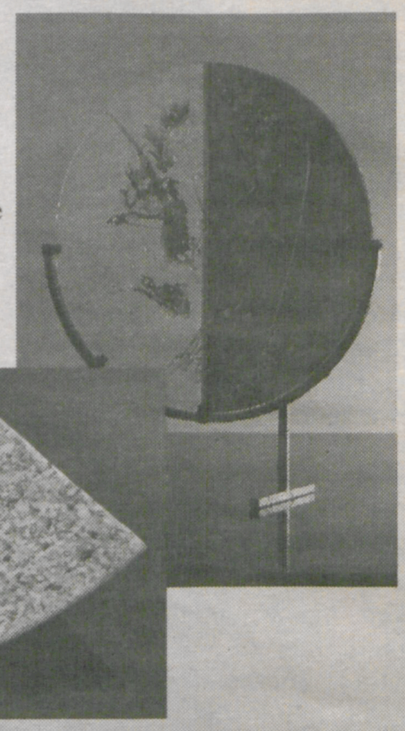

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Stonewall Dem. continued

have been in lockstep with him. The best example is Santorum, Bush's loyal rubber stamp for five years and a Congressional right-winger for 15 years. Santorum recently avoided a presidential visit to Pennsylvania and has even started making mildly critical comments about Bush. It's worth noting that Santorum still agrees with Bush's policies, like privatizing Social Security, and only disagrees on tactics," Turner says.

CRSD co-chair Judy Chambers said, "Next year will be crucial for the state and nation, and not just because we have an excellent opportunity to retire Rick Santorum. Governor Rendell, an ally of our community, will probably face a strong challenge from Republicans who are doing their best to please right-wingers. Even 'moderate' Bill Scranton favors an anti-gay amendment to the state Constitution. And the right-wing base of the Republican Party is certain to keep pushing for all sorts of extreme legislation in Harrisburg, including anti-glbt plans."

"So we welcome help, whether that means joining, sending a check or simply signing a letter to your state representative and senator," Chambers says. CRSD: P.O. Box 173, Harrisburg, PA 17108; crstonewalldems@yahoo.com; 717-691-7533; www.capital-stonewall.org.

P.H. Edward (Paul Hood)

Alternative Central Freelance Launches 1st Novel

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by P.H. Edward

Dawn Roberts and Clementine Harris cooked up a diabolical scheme to take out Dawn's arrogant and overbearing husband Wyatt. It was supposed to be simple; Clementine, the now Private Investigator/ Contract Killer, simply told Dawn he'd make it seem as if Wyatt committed the act of suicide. But when the plan was implemented "Clem" made one crucial mistake which lead him not to complete the assignment.

With this, Clem begins to question his abilities, diving deep into a pool of insecurity and confusion all while Dawn berates his botched effort and becomes paranoid and frantic about Wyatt still being alive. He [Clem] ponders over his own seemingly lost manhood and reputation as a feared contract killer and journeys on an unfulfilling quest for self redemption. He does everything to rediscover the cold killer he once was. While deep in this act, horribly, he meets a young, attractive and mysterious waitress by the name of Brynn Steele whom herself is searching for a sense of newness. Little does he know their encounter will eventually lead to something tragic that will quickly change the lives of all the players in a twisted and slightly humorous game of greed, lust, jealousy, and revenge.

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Book Review: The End of Faith

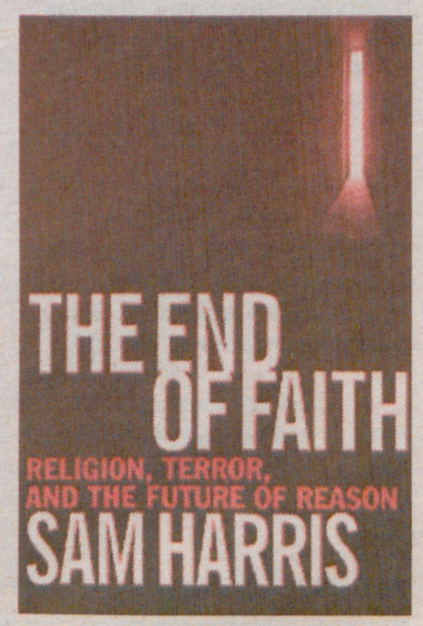
By Daniel M. Kane

Science, logic and faith, often at odds with each other, are at odds in author Sam Harris' "The End of Faith."

According to Harris, it is unacceptable to believe the good books are the literal words of God or Allah or whomever. It is also, says Harris, dangerous to be a fair-weather Christian or to express any notions of faith at all. Being a Sunday Christian and a workday moderate only gives rise to extremists. While we're not waging jihad domestically, we're not doing ourselves any favors by holding on to an inconsistent holy text without proof and without cause.

Yes, churches do good works; however, we get back to the fact that more lives are lost in the name of divinity than in either World War. And do we need scripture to find beauty? "There is, of course, much that is wise and consoling and beautiful in our religious books. But words of wisdom and consolation and beauty abound in the pages of Shakespeare, Virgil, and Homer as well, and no one ever murdered strangers by the thousands because of the inspiration he found there."

The Church has come a long way since the Inquisition, captured in Chapter 4. It has already been over 50 years since the Catholic Church cooperated with the Third Reich by reveal-



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Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month.
PO Box 135
Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24.
Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@common-roads.org. Website: www.common-roads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown -P O Box 541,Bethlehem , PA 18016, non-profit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorain-pa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball -
Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugby-dog34@aol.com.

Lambda Car Club -
Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

Pennsmen, Leather/Levi/Social. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve at 717.232.3785. Website: www.pennsmen.org, Email: jesjames71@comcast.net.

Pride Festival of Central PA -
Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328.

The Rainbow Bowling League -
ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. The Rainbow Bowling League is considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We invite anyone interested in joining. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes. Contact: Mark or Robert 763-8444 for more details.

Renaissance LSV -
Transgendered.
Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: Outreach Director Pam Hirschhorn -PamH00@yahoo.com Website:
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Susquehanna Valley Bears - PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

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Theatre Roundup

$5,000 from Sovereign Bank

York Little Theatre Mounts C.S. Lewis & Shakespeare

York Little Theatre received $5,000 from Sovereign Bank to produce Seussical, the Musical. Since 1985 Sovereign Bank – then York Federal Savings and Loan – has supported YLT. Last season Sovereign was Co-Producer of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

A member of the Cultural Alliance of York County, YLT will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2007 and is located at 27 South Belmont Street, York, PA, at exit 19A of I-83, just south of Market Street.

THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE (Children's Series)

January 20 – 22 & January 27 – 29; 7 pm Friday; 3 pm & 7 pm Saturday; 3 pm Sunday
by Joseph Robinette from the story by C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis' magical world of Narnia offers the perfect destination for four children who seek to escape the boredom of a rainy afternoon trapped in their uncle's mansion. But when they find themselves caught in the war between the evil White Witch and the great lion Aslan, the children will have to rely on their own courage and strengths and the help of their new found friends to ensure that good will rule the heart of Narnia.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Applause Series)

February 17-19 & February 23-26; 8 pm, except Sunday at 3 pm
by William Shakespeare

Pride, jealousy, love, and valor all get their hand at play in one of the Bard's most well-loved works. Benedick and Beatrice, avowed rebels to love, find themselves entangled in its net by a merry plot to make them believe that each is the object of the secret passion of the other. But when jealousy threatens to destroy the marriage of their closest friends, these cynics of love must work to overcome their own pride and join together to make sure that all ends well.

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Applause Series Musical; Casting Needs: 4 Men

ing who's who among Jews.

Is there an afterlife? "…faith is nothing more than a willingness to await the evidence – be it the Day of Judgment or some other downpour of corroboration. It is the search for knowledge on the installment plan: Believe now, live an untestable hypothesis until your dying day, and you will discover that you were right."

Serious discussions on neuroscience and psychology are mixed with the hilarious. On transubstantiation, Harris writes: "Jesus Christ – who, as it turns out, was born of a virgin, cheated death, and rose bodily into the heavens – can now be eaten in the form of a cracker."

Islam is the subject of an entire chapter. Islam has made its contributions to world history; Muslim scholars "invented algebra, translated the writings of Plato and Aristotle, and made important contributions to a variety of nascent sciences at a time when European Christians were luxuriating in the most abysmal ignorance," but its current contribution to the world is a less attractive one: "A young man, born into relative privilege, packs his clothing with explosives and ball bearings and unmakes himself along with a score of children at a discotheque, and his mother is promptly congratulated by hundreds of her neighbors." Thankfully, only a very small percentage of Muslims are extremists.

Some of the implications in this book are difficult to swallow, such as the one that faith in America is a threat to world peace. Maybe an elderly shut-in has nothing but religion to give her peace after the passing of her fifty-years-wed husband; what about her? What about the kid who spends his time in a church youth group instead of learning the laws of the jungle in the inner city or increasingly violent white suburbs?

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Former Neo-Nazi continued

moved into a house full of Skinheads from Aryan Nations. We'd fly Nazi flags and Confederate flags from the roof. And there were a lot of guns. One of the skins was always going into the woods, camping and burying stuff and all kinds of weird things. One night, they didn't have any money and wanted beer. They drove to a gas station and sent a younger kid in to steal beer.

King was eventually sentenced to six years in prison, although a judge reduced that to three years after you began to cooperate with prosecutors.

IR: What was your prison experience like from 1998 to 2001?

KING: I just thought if I was going to do anything with myself, this was definitely the time. I was kept in solitary confinement at first, because at this point I had tattoos all over me, including four swastikas. I actually started making friends. Prison is bee hive. People give you legal advice, explaining how things work, how to call your lawyer, everything. I had never been around such a mix of people, every race and ethnicity.

IR: And you began cooperating with state and federal law enforcement?

KING: Once I sat down with detectives, I realized the magnitude of the problem. I realized that somebody could have died.

IR: Have you come to terms with your guilt feelings? About Using hate to mask your lesbian feelings?

KING: When I was an adolescent I liked girls, and I always had the thought in my head that I'm sick, something is wrong with me. I didn't know what I was looking for. But when I was in prison I started to meet gay women, and a lot of things started coming out of me. I really had nothing but time to think about why I was the way I was — why I was so angry and so mean — and I came to the simple realization that I think I'm gay and I don't think I have ever liked myself very much.

Prison changed my life. It was an epiphany. I could wake up in the morning and look in mirror and like myself.

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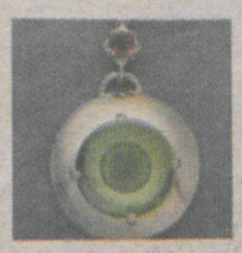

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